

More than 1.7 million out of work Biggest rise in jobless total for nine years

By PHILIP WEBSTER and COLIN NARBROUGH

THE number of people out of work rose by 57,000 in November, to more than 1.7 million. The rise is the biggest for nine years, and it provides striking confirmation that the economy is moving rapidly into a deep recession with a general election no more than 18 months away. Unemployment has now risen for eight consecutive months.

John Major immediately voiced his regret at the increase, while seeking to neutralise its political impact by blaming it on high pay claims. However, it is widely believed at Westminster that it means that his political honeymoon will prove short-lived.

The Chancellor, Norman Lamont, had admitted in the Commons on Wednesday that unemployment would rise over the next few months. However, the increase was much worse than expected. It spread beyond the depressed areas of the country into every region - including the Conservatives' heartland South-east.

The figures produced the sharpest Commons clash between Neil Kinnock and the

prime minister since Mr Major became Tory leader. Coming the day after Mr Lamont ruled out an early cut in interest rates, they added to Conservative MPs' doubts about the likelihood of an early election.

The seasonally-adjusted rise of 57,000 shocked City economists. They had expected it to be about 35,000, in line with the average monthly increase over the past few months. Treasury forecasts, previously regarded by many outside economists as rather pessimistic, are increasingly being perceived as optimistic.

Gwynn Hache, UK economist at the stockbroker James Capel, described the news as "extremely grim". It was reminiscent of the accelerating jumps seen in the 1974-75 recession, although not as bad as the increase in the early eighties. Of particular concern was the 16,000 fall in the number of people in manufacturing industry, he said. Such job losses had a knock-on effect on employment elsewhere, for example in services.

In the Commons, Mr Kinnock told Mr Major that the rise was a direct and deliberate result of his policies when Chancellor. The prime minister replied that everyone regretted the rise in unemployment, but added: "I have been warning for some months that if wage rises stay high that will have a necessary effect on jobs." The latest official figures show that average earnings rose by 10 per cent in the year to October.

Mr Kinnock responded by accusing the government of dishonesty. When the figures came down, it claimed success and when they went up it was somebody else's failure. "Why won't you be man enough to own up properly to the reason for the rise and accept blame for your own policies?" Mr Major declared that there would be a considerable reduction in inflation over the next few months, after which the country would return to a position of growth. Britain's unemployment rate, at 6.2 per cent, was among the lowest in the European Community. "Long term unemployment is still falling and the extent to which the economy has been revived is shown, not least, by

the fact that of those who have just lost their jobs, 50 per cent will find themselves back in work within three months," he said.

Rodney Bickerstaffe, TUC economic committee chairman and general secretary of the public employees' union Nupe, rejected Mr Major's claims. Unemployment was not the fault of the trade unions or working people, but of the government's economic policies. "The TUC forecast that unemployment would go above two million in our approach to Chancellor John Major this time last year. He took no notice and the government took no notice and we are now starting to reap the whirlwind."

Norman Willis, the TUC general secretary, said: "The tragic reality behind these shameful statistics is that more and more workers are paying the price of the government's failure with their jobs." Meanwhile, City expectations of lower interest rates receded further. The pound's weakness in the ERM, and the Chancellor's emphasis in the Commons on Wednesday on the need to keep sterling firm, persuaded financial markets that no easing is likely until next year.

Fears that the pound would come under renewed pressure from higher German interest rates were dispelled when the Bundesbank yesterday decided to leave its key lending rates unchanged.

Policy toll, page 7
Don't panic, page 12
Leading article, page 13



Hunting with the pack: the Quantock Staghounds meeting on National Trust land in Somerset yesterday

Delors plot to corner Major on Euro union

From ROBIN OAKLEY AND MICHAEL BINYON IN BRUSSELS

JOHN Major will be confronted today with an ingenious scheme to entice him into support for swifter European economic and monetary union.

A plan to be presented by Jacques Delors, the Commission president, incorporates a variant of Mr Major's hard ecu proposal into a speedier timetable for handing over control of economic and monetary policy to European institutions.

The plan puts Mr Major in a dilemma. On the one hand it will enable him to claim that the European Community's proposals for EMU have now been substantially modified in line with his alternative. On the other hand it invites him to go along with the ultimate aim of a single currency and reaffirms many of the details that he and Mrs Thatcher so vigorously opposed.

The Delors plan, a draft treaty to be debated at the inter-governmental conference opening immediately after today's summit, calls for a future EC central bank to manage a strengthened European currency unit - in effect the hard ecu that Mr Major has been presenting as his evolutionary approach to a single currency.

By giving the newly-established Eurofed the responsibility of managing a strengthened Stage Two of EMU, M Delors has created a function for the new European central bank which is to be established in January, 1994. Under the original EMU plan, it was not clear what the Eurofed would do until Stage Three, when currencies are irrevocably locked. The Eurofed in Stage Two would bear close resemblance to the European Monetary Fund which Mr Major proposed should manage the hard ecu. Details of how the ecu is to be strengthened remain un-

clear, but one source here suggested that the Community could simply freeze the present mix of currencies in the basket making up the ecu. This would give the currency a fixed value, but it would not make it automatically the strongest currency in Europe, "harder" even than the Deutschmark, as Mr Major had proposed. The German Bundesbank has always objected to the creation of a completely new hard currency, but it would agree to a redefinition of the basket of 12 currencies which make up the present Ecu.

"This plan is looking to build a bridge to the UK," said one EC official. The Delors plan plays skillfully on Mr Major's eagerness to establish his European credentials following Mrs Thatcher's departure, and to live up to his promise of a "constructive dialogue" with EC partners. But if he is seen to be too ready to accept speedier European integration, he will risk splitting the Conservative party by upsetting the Euro-sceptics in the Tory ranks, many of

whom supported him in the leadership contest.

The British government had not been alerted in advance about M Delors' initiative. Treasury and Foreign Office officials knew nothing of it last night.

A further test loomed for Mr Major in that the Italian presidency yesterday seemed to be hustling the pace also on political union, the subject of the other IGC starting tomorrow.

The foreign secretary, Douglas Hurd told the Commons last week that Britain had been working to stop any attempt by EC partners to lay down what the IGC should discuss before it had even met. British ministers had regarded the opening meeting of the IGC as a purely formal session.

But yesterday Signor Pío Maurotti, the spokesman for the Italian presidency, said that the foreign ministers would immediately get down to detail at the first IGC. Continued on page 20, col 5

Parliament, page 6
EC and sanctions, page 11

Levitt chief arrested as police raid offices

By ANGELA MACKAY

ROGER Levitt, the flamboyant founder and chairman of Levitt Group, was arrested at his home in Highgate, north London, yesterday, while police raided the West End offices of his collapsed financial services group.

The police said they were questioning Mr Levitt, but no charges had been laid. Several boxes of documents were taken from the offices.

Liquidators from KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock were appointed to Mr Levitt's

£150 million business on Tuesday, after the group's accountants found a £30 million to £40 million hole in the company's balance sheet.

Mr Levitt, the master salesman who at one stage had a personal fortune estimated at £80 million, befriended celebrities including Adam Faith, Sebastian Coe and Lennox Lewis, the boxer. His empire included an entertainment and sporting division.

Details, page 21

Trust sets aside hunt ban vote

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY

THE governing council of the National Trust last night rejected last month's vote of its membership to ban deer hunting on trust land from next August, delighting the field sports lobby and infuriating animal welfare activists.

The trust put off for three years the most difficult decision in its 95-year history by setting up a scientific working party to study the conservation and management of red deer on the Quantock Hills and Exmoor, the two principal areas where deer hunting takes place and where the existence of hunts was threatened by a ban on trust land.

No action will be taken by the trust about hunting of any kind, including fox hunting, before the annual general meeting. Continued on page 20, col 1

Life for Babes in Wood man

Russell Bishop, aged 24, an unemployed labourer, was sent to prison for life yesterday for the attempted murder of a seven-year-old Brighton schoolgirl - three years after a jury acquitted him of the notorious Babes in the Wood murders.

Last night the Home Office took the unusual step of defending the scientists who also carried out forensic tests in the Babes in the Wood case. Page 3

Jail report

Pressure on the government to reduce the number of mentally disturbed people in jail will be increased by the publication today of a scathing critical Prisons Inspectorate report on Brixton jail in south London. Page 4

Wedgwood split



Paddy Byrne, chief executive of Waterford Wedgwood, is to resign after three years with the group, which will split its crystal and china businesses into separate units in a bid to reverse a severe profits collapse. Page 21

Iraq defiant

Iraq, showing no sign that it will pull out of Kuwait by the UN deadline of January 15, announced it had set up hundreds of civil defence training centres to prepare the population for war. Page 10

New coal chief

The government made the surprise appointment of Neil Clarke, a City industrialist, to be chairman of British Coal from January 1. The former chief executive of Consolidated Chartered, the mining company, would succeed Lord Haslam of Bolton. Page 23

England win

A victory by 33 runs over New Zealand in the World Series Cup in Sydney helped lift the gloom for England's cricket team in Australia. Page 34

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Hostel promise to help the homeless

By JOHN WINDER

ACTION to ease the plight of people sleeping rough in London was promised by the prime minister yesterday. He announced a government initiative to provide more beds in hostels and other long-term accommodation.

John Major told MPs that Sir George Young, the housing minister, would give details of plans within a few days. Sir George was talking to agencies and together they were developing new and more effective ways to get those sleeping rough off the streets.

Sir George is cutting through red tape to accelerate the provision of housing for London's homeless. The environment department has begun a £97 million three-year programme to provide accommodation for those labelled "roofless" and a progress re-

port is expected before Christmas.

The programme's first phase will provide three hostels with a total of 140 new places, at the Station Hotel, Islington; King George's Hotel, Westminster; and in Crispin Street, Lambeth.

Paul Boateng, Labour MP for Brent South, had asked Mr Major how could it be to get "before the homeless are given the opportunity of shelter". Mr Major did not give a detailed reply, but the health department fund an organisation known as SHIL (single homeless in London) which provides beds in former hospitals and other accommodation in the capital. That is opened, on the decision of a minister, if at least three days of freezing temperatures are forecast.

BBC pulls the plug as The Listener loses £1m

By MELINDA WITTISTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE LISTENER, the 61-year-old weekly magazine whose many famous and talented contributors have included George Orwell, A.J.P. Taylor, Clive James and Stephen Fry, is to cease publication next January - a victim of mounting losses and dwindling circulation.

Read by 27,000 when it was launched in 1929 to provide verbatim transcripts of BBC radio programmes that people may have missed, The Listener has suffered a decline in circulation from 153,000 at its height in 1949 to just 16,500 today. An unprecedented advertising recession, combined with the decision last summer of the independent television companies to withdraw their financial backing, was the final



The first issue's masthead

nailed in the coffin for the intellectual magazine whose future, along with that of Punch, The New Statesman and Society and other specialist magazines, has been in doubt for more than a year.

The BBC, whose overall revenue is set to decline following the government's decision to peg increases in the licence fee to less than the retail price index, said yesterday that it could no

longer sustain a magazine with losses approaching £1 million this year.

Paul Fox, managing director of BBC Television and a director of Listener Publications, said: "With the withdrawal of ITV, the BBC will have to bear the full burden of those losses. This is clearly incompatible with our responsibility to provide value for money to licence payers."

Peter Fiddick, The Listener's editor, and Joanne Hurst, its general manager, were summoned to the BBC yesterday after the fateful BBC board of governors meeting. The 22-strong staff said in a joint statement: "We are extremely dismayed by the BBC's decision but we do not believe this is the end of the road for The Listener. As a staff, we're looking for backing, with or without the BBC, and we have already developed new editorial plans

for the magazine." The Listener was ideally placed to take advantage of the break-up of the television listings duopoly next March, by offering readers what would have been an upmarket version of the BBC's Radio Times with in-depth analysis of the broadcasting world.

Alan Coren, The Times columnist and former editor of both Punch and The Listener, said the closure was sad but inevitable. "It was like climbing the north face of the Eiger with a large gas stove strapped to your back," he said. "A circulation of under 20,000 is not enough to appeal to the vanities of the best columnists and critics, who can reach millions in a newspaper. The Listener, New Statesman, The Spectator and Punch just don't have the clout or the constituency they used to."

SATURDAY

Big Yin in Big Greed



Billy Connolly talks about being the latest celebrity to discover that the Hollywood dream factory is all factory and no dream, and about selling out. Well, has he?

SATURDAY REVIEW

In a class of our own?

Matthew Parris on John Major's call for a classless Britain. Do we want it, or will Britons ever, evermore be slaves to snobbery?

SATURDAY REVIEW

Gifts: adding a personal touch

Choosing a gift that matches the person need not be harder than buying yet another pair of socks. How to find the gift with something extra

WEEKEND LIVING

Not only Levin, but also . . .



Bernard Levin enthuses about Fidelio, Peter Ackroyd on the post-Dickens Scrooge archetype, William Boyd sees the world's biggest soap opera

SATURDAY REVIEW

Money and the young

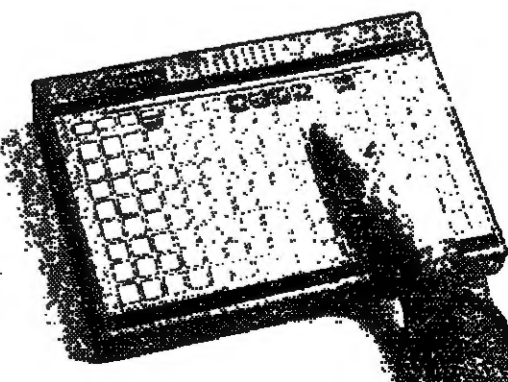
What our younger readers spend and how to make pocket money go further

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WRITTEN BY LIZ HOLDEN



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THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

Families of Deal bomb victims may sue MoD

By RAY CLANCY

FAMILIES of the 11 Royal Marines bandmen killed in the bombing at Deal, Kent, said last night they were considering legal action to try to find out more about security at the barracks where the device was planted despite a high security alert.

After a jury returned verdicts that the bandmen were unlawfully killed when a "typical IRA device" was planted in the coffee room at the Royal Marines school of music in September 1989, the families said they were not satisfied with the security details given at the inquest in Dover.

Audit office savings of £215m

By PETER VICTOR

SAVINGS of £215 million have been achieved by the National Audit Office as a result of changes agreed with government departments in 1988 and 1989, according to the audit office's annual report. Reduced costs of British forces in Germany accounted for £73 million.

The audit office expects savings of £100 million a year through more efficient use of hospital operating theatres and £250 million a year from improvements in the reliability of defence equipment.

The audit office investigates independently all aspects of government activity with a view to persuading departments to provide better value for money. John Bourn, head of the audit office, said yesterday that the organisation is to introduce a regional structure with an office in Leeds. A fifth of its 900 staff will work in the northern region.

The report says that audit office estimates of savings by government departments in response to its recommendations include £1.6 million recovered by customs and excise from the European Community and £1 million to £2 million a year through prompt collection of money due from US forces in the UK.

After audit office recommendations, the Treasury has issued guidance to departments on weakness in internal control, including computer abuse, and the need for contingency planning, bill checking, call logging and private calls by staff. Some government departments have also cut down their use of consultants for non-specialist information technology work and improved project management.

The four-day hearing was told that doors to the coffee room were left unlocked because the key was broken and it was easy for an intruder to enter the barracks over low walls.

Security was provided by Royal Marines and Reliance, a private firm, but details of its activities at the site were not given. Questions on security were blocked by Richard Sturt, the East Kent coroner, after counsel for the Ministry of Defence said such information could compromise military security elsewhere.

Fraser Whitehead, solicitor acting for the family of musician Richard Fice, aged 22, who died in the blast, said critical questions had not been answered as the inquest was restricted by a certificate of public interest immunity requested by Archie Hamilton, the minister for armed forces. "I recognise there is a need for such certificates but I personally believe that in this particular case it may have gone further than necessary," Mr Whitehead said.

Three crucial issues had to be examined, he said: why nothing was done to step up security at Deal when an extra £88 million was allocated to the MoD to do so at its establishments after the bombing of Inglis barracks, north London, in August 1988; why the perimeter fence at Deal was not made reasonably secure when there had been a state of high alert since January 1988; and why Deal was allowed to remain a soft target.

"As we could not ask these questions at the inquest we are looking to obtain the answers in the civil courts," Mr Whitehead said. The action would probably be against the defence ministry with a view to obtaining damages for the families.

The jury had taken 80 minutes to return verdicts of unlawful killing on Corporal Trevor Davis, 39, musician Richard Jones, 27, Corporal Dean Pavey, 31, Corporal Andrew Cletheroe, 25, musician Timothy Reeves, 24, musician Robert Simmonds, 34, musician Michael Ball, 24, Corporal David McMillan, 26, musician Mark Petch, 26, and musician Christopher Nolan, 21.

Lieutenant Colonel Ian Gardiner, who became commandant at Deal two months ago, said afterwards that the security issues which emerged had been noted and "appropriate action was taken". He said he had been enormously impressed by the courage of those who had survived, some of whom were still unable to fully play their instruments.



Royal decaden: Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, 90 this year, with the Princess Royal, aged 40, the Duke of York, aged 30, and Princess Margaret, aged 60, at the Buckingham Palace ball to mark their birthdays

MEPs want code for submarines in Irish Sea

By KERRY GILL

MORE precautions were called for by Euro MPs yesterday to avoid a repetition of the accident in which the fishing boat *Antares* was sunk by the submarine *Trenchant* with the loss of four crewmen in the Firth of Clyde last month.

Support for new measures, including a ruling that submarines should remain on the surface while crossing the Irish Sea, came from Labour, Scottish National Party and Northern Ireland MPs and were supported by members of the European parliament in Strasbourg. The MEPs called

for an international ruling for net avoidance systems on submarines and urged the British government to provide compensation for the families of the *Antares* victims.

Karel Van Miert, the transport commissioner, said that the commission would study the suggestions. The Conservative group said that recently introduced safety measures were adequate and refused to support the motion.

Meanwhile, Jamie Russell, aged 36, the skipper of the *Antares*, and Dugald John Campbell, aged 20, a crew-

man, were buried at their home port of Carradale, Argyll, yesterday. The funeral of Stewart Campbell, aged 29, will be held today. The body of the fourth crewman, Billy Martindale, aged 24, has not yet been found.

About 300 people filled the whitewashed parish church and hundreds more gathered outside to hear the service on loudspeakers. Among wreaths were three from the *Trenchant*'s company. They bore the message: "With deepest sympathy." The commodore of the Clyde

submarine base was among the mourners. The harbour was filled with fishing boats, many of the mourners having arrived by sea.

The *Shetland* coastguard, meanwhile, continued searching yesterday for the crew of the fishing boat *Premier* which sank in gale force winds off Shetland on Wednesday. They returned, however, having spotted only fish boxes and oil. Richard Crowther, Lerwick's coastguard station officer, said: "The search was a goodwill gesture to see if anything had popped up over-

night which could help determine what caused the problem in the first place. If any bodies come to the surface and are found we will do our very best to recover them." Of the initial rescue, he said: "We did a thorough and extensive search of the area and it was unfortunate and sad that it was unsuccessful."

Scottish fishermen said last night that they will ignore European Community rules if ordered to spend ten consecutive days in port each month, as part of a 1991 conservation package.

Price war is slashing profits, car trade say

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

FIERCE price competition is forcing motor dealers to accept some of the lowest profit margins in the retail industry, a monopolies enquiry was told yesterday.

Britain's 7,500 motor dealers countered accusations of profiteering in its evidence to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC), which is investigating why car prices can be up to 30 per cent cheaper in the rest of Europe.

The discounting war among manufacturers, which has meant cuts of up to £1,000 in showroom prices, has reduced dealer profit margins to 1 per cent of turnover before tax, according to the Retail Motor Industry Federation (RMI), which represents dealers. That compares with net margins of 5 to 7 per cent made by supermarket chains, the federation said.

It added that even in last year's record market, when 2.3 million new cars were sold, profits were "no more than marginal".

Neil Marshall, the organisation's chief economist, said: "It is blatantly obvious that there is huge price competition in Britain. It is not enough to just look at the showroom price, and consumer groups have found that this country has the highest levels of discounting in Europe, while other dealers are offered, such as in low-cost finance, for example."

The evidence from the federation is among the first to be collected by the MMC, which is investigating claims by consumer groups that British customers were being "milked" with prices substantially above those on the Continent.

The motor industry federation, however, says in its evidence that price differences can be put down to specifications that vary from market to market as well as differing levels of taxation.

Rifkind told to end bias against public transport

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

A RADICAL overhaul of government transport policy was called for yesterday by an alliance of public transport campaigners, environmental groups, local government bodies, and private-sector interests.

More than 30 organisations, including Transport 2000, the pro-public transport lobby, the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, property developers, and motoring organisations, are backing the initiative calling for an end to what is seen as the bias against public transport.

In a joint statement, the alliance members urged Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, to abandon a transport strategy which, they argue, has left public transport investment restricted by private sector disciplines, while private transport investment is allowed to benefit from public sector considerations.

According to Stephen Joseph, director of Transport 2000, an organisation funded by British Rail, the rail unions, and the Council for the Protection of Rural England, this confusing state of affairs results from the government's imposition of commercial disciplines on rail investment, while applying non-commercial considerations to road schemes.

As a result, many socially beneficial rail investment projects, such as the proposed Edinburgh-Aberdeen and the

Midland mainline electrification schemes were rejected because they are unable to demonstrate the 8 per cent rate of return required by the government for rail investment, Mr Joseph said.

At the same time, road investment schemes that may not in themselves satisfy the 8 per cent return criteria often secure government approval because the value of reduced congestion, pollution, and improved safety, are factors in the cost equation, he said.

Not all rail investment schemes are required to jump this hurdle. Investment in the new London Underground lines, such as the extension of the Jubilee Line from Green Park to Stratford, and the planned East-West Crossrail

between Paddington and Liverpool Street, were only approved because of their wider social and environmental benefits. Nevertheless, "most rail investment schemes face far more stringent financial criteria than their road-based alternatives," Mr Joseph said.

As well as demanding a broader assessment of the social and environmental benefits of rail investment, the alliance called for a long-term investment programme for rail, similar to the ten-year programme used in road construction.

British Rail has already gone some way to meet this demand, following its decision last month to abandon the traditional three-year corporate plan in favour of a long-term strategic planning horizon. However, the alliance wants this approach to be extended to include all other forms of transport, a practice applied with considerable success by Britain's European partners, Mr Joseph said.

Local authorities should also be empowered to draw up coherent packages of transport measures, integrating new road and rail links, bus and cycle lanes, and pedestrian precincts. These could then be financed as a whole, instead of the present piecemeal approach that often leads to some elements of a scheme being approved while others are rejected, Mr Joseph said.



Rifkind: urged to change transport policy

Hospital receives £8m from shy donor

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

OCTAV Botnar, the shy head of Nissan UK, yesterday became the biggest benefactor to Great Ormond Street hospital for sick children since J.M. Barrie donated the royalties from *Peter Pan*.

Mr Botnar's company handed over £8 million to the children's hospital in London, which has faced tight controls on spending recently. The donation will allow the hospital to realise plans for a pathology and research laboratory by 1993, using the most modern equipment to investigate a wide range of diseases, including leukaemia.

Like Barrie, who specified that no details of his donation should be published, Mr Botnar was reluctant to be thrust into the limelight.

business world, Mr Botnar gambled 21 years ago that Japanese cars would become a success in Europe. He signed exclusive rights to sell Nissan cars, then known as Datsuns, in Britain in 1969.

From 1,200 cars then, annual sales will reach 110,000 this year. His success also proved a key factor in persuading Nissan to build its £650 million factory at Washington, Tyne and Wear, which employs 2,500 people.

Reputedly a billionaire, it emerges that Mr Botnar restructured his company in the mid-1970s so that 5 per cent of profits are distributed to charity annually.

Nissan UK is now 71 per cent owned by European Motor Vehicles, whose board, although headed by Mr Botnar, made one of his

rare public appearances yesterday at a lunch party at the Savoy hotel to celebrate 21 years running Nissan UK. His modesty still prevented him from speaking about the donation and staff were told not to use his name too often in references to the anniversary.

News of the donation came as an afterthought with no specific announcement, although Sir Anthony Tippet, general manager of Hospitals for Sick Children, was at the lunch. He said: "We are delighted with Mr Botnar's generosity. This donation is the largest we have received."

Nissan UK's £8 million overtakes J.M. Barrie's gift of the royalties from *Peter Pan*, which are thought to have brought in more than £1 million over 23 years.

UDM to ballot miners on offer of 10% pay rise

By TIM JONES, EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE Union of Democratic Mineworkers appeared to be close yesterday to securing a 10 per cent rise in basic pay for its 17,000 members.

British Coal's offer will be put to the union's members in a postal ballot in the new year with a recommendation to accept. It would mean increases ranging from £18.35 for top-grade face workers to £13.75 for surface workers. Basic pay of the highest graded underground worker would increase from £183 to £201 a week.

The offer came as Arthur Scargill, president of the rival National Union of Mineworkers, was again fending off an attempt to force his resignation. His failure to recognise the UDM, which was created because of his refusal to ballot members over embarking on the 1984-5 pit strike, has left him unable to negotiate any improvement in pay for his members for more than five years. Every rise his members have received has been imposed after negotiations between British Coal and the UDM.

Yesterday, Mr Scargill faced an attempt, led by George Bolton, president of the Scottish area, to make him "face reality" by stepping down and standing for re-election. Last month, members of the NUM delivered a rebuff to Mr Scargill when they ignored his pleas and voted to reject calls for industrial action over a £50-a-week pay claim.

At yesterday's meeting of

the NUM executive in Sheffield, the call to force Mr Scargill and Peter Heathfield, the union's general secretary, to stand for re-election was ruled to be out of order and not discussed. After the meeting, Mr Bolton said: "The membership have had five years of no negotiations because of our refusal to sit alongside the UDM. There is a growing anger in the coalfield on this question and that was expressed in the ballot and that expression of anger will grow."

He added: "The Scottish miners have made it quite clear. If there are no talks there will be no industrial action. They are demanding talks first." Mr Scargill has refused to agree to British Coal's insistence that only the majority union has negotiating rights at any given pit.

John Northard, British Coal's deputy chairman, said: "With inflation falling significantly and forecast to be down to 6 per cent by the middle of next year, acceptance of the package of improvements will give miners increased earning power in 1991." He said that the corporation had responded positively to the UDM claim and had improved a range of pay and other benefits that would keep miners at the top of the industrial earnings league.

Roy Lynk, the UDM president, said: "We feel we have secured improvements acceptable to a majority of our members."

Retirement application by official

Barry O'Neill, aged 56, director of social services for Staffordshire, where allegations involving children's homes are being investigated, is seeking leave to retire early. He is expected to leave his job this month if his application is approved next week.

Alan Levy, QC, is investigating a controversial method for controlling adolescents called "pin down" alleged to have been used at two council-run children's homes. Mike Poulter, chairman of the county's social services committee, said Mr O'Neill had been under immense strain and his health had suffered as a result of enormous challenges facing his department.

Arrests 'illegal'

Defence lawyers for the three IRA suspects arrested last week by British police are planning to appeal for the release of the men because their arrest may have been illegal. The lawyers have lodged an appeal claiming a law which came into effect days before the arrests was not adhered to. A decision on the claim will be made early next week and the three could be freed immediately.

Dog must die

Theresa Lawson, wife of the former Chancellor, may need skin grafts after being bitten in the leg by an Alaskan, Hincley, Hincley magistrates were told yesterday. They ordered the dog to be destroyed and its owner, James Robinson, of Sharnford, Leicestershire, to pay £23 costs. He admitted failing to control the dog.

Arts jobs at risk

The Royal Opera House has to lose 50 posts in the next year in order to deal with a projected £4.4 million deficit, Jeremy Isaacs, director general, told staff yesterday. There may have to be redundancies among the 1,000 people working in the Royal Opera, the Royal Ballet and the Birmingham Royal Ballet, he said.

Bridge of sighs

A proposal for a steel bridge over the Severn, close to the world's first iron bridge, has been rejected by the environment secretary. Shropshire county council wanted the bridge to relieve traffic congestion at Ironbridge Gorge, which is a world heritage site and conservation area.

Hamleys fined

Hamleys, the toy shop, was yesterday fined £800 at Hammersmith Road magistrates' court for opening its store in Regent Street, London, on a Sunday last year. It was criticised for not sending a representative to court.

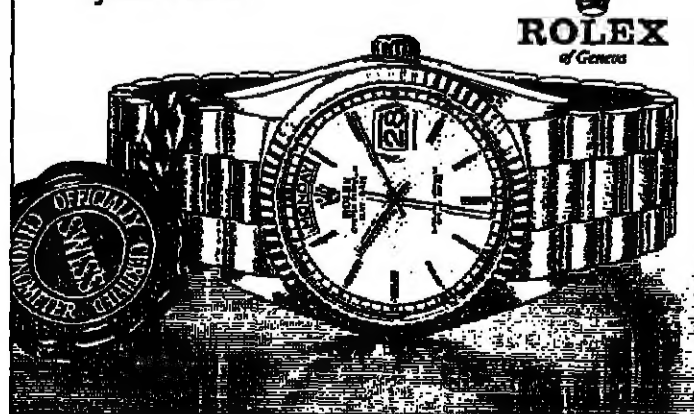
Jury at hotel

The Old Bailey jury trying Rodney Whitehead, aged 43, of Hornchurch, Essex, on charges including blackmail and contaminating baby food, was sent to a hotel last night after failing to reach a verdict. The trial continues today.

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6 PARLIAMENT AND POLITICS

Baker rejects fears on police

KENNETH Baker, the home secretary, told MPs yesterday that he did not accept that there was a fundamental lack of public confidence in the police (Peter Mulligan writes).

Any recent events that might involve a miscarriage of justice should not be underestimated, but only a few officers were concerned.

"It would be quite wrong to condemn the whole of the police service on account of that. There are over 125,000 uniformed police officers working day in and day out on the streets of our cities and they deserve our support."

During the exchanges, Opposition MPs expressed concern at reports of low morale among police officers of all ranks. Roy Hattersley, shadow home secretary, said that the collapse in police morale was "widespread and desperately dangerous".

Mr Baker did not respond directly to that, but criticised Labour-controlled Derbyshire county council which, he said, had starved its police force of resources for eight years. He described last week's report on the police there by Geoffrey Dear, Midlands inspector of constabulary, as "one of the most worrying issued".

Parliament next week

The main business in the Commons next week will be: Monday: Debate on capital punishment on amendments to the Criminal Justice bill. Tuesday: Atomic Weapons Establishment bill, second reading.

Wednesday: Christmas recess motion and Consolidated Fund bill when a variety of topics can be raised. Thursday: Christmas adjournment debates on various subjects.

The main business in the Lords is expected to be: Monday: Debate on the Gulf. Tuesday: Gaming (Amendment) bill, third reading. Natural Heritage (Scotland) bill, report.

Wednesday: Debates on Latin America and on homelessness.

Thursday: Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments bill and Caravans (Standard Community Charge and rating) bill, second readings.

Smith stays vague on EC single currency

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Smith declined yesterday to commit a future Labour government to a single European currency within the five-year lifetime of a parliament as the Opposition outlined the approach it would like Britain to adopt at the European summit starting in Rome today.

Echoing Margaret Thatcher's past and lone refusal among EC leaders to accept a January 1994 deadline for the next stage of monetary union, the shadow chancellor said that progress should not be dictated by "artificial dates that are put in a diary".

Mr Smith argued that the pace of movement towards a monetary union, which implies the creation of a single currency, should be largely determined by the degree to which the performance of the economies of the 12 EC states converged over the years ahead.

However, he rejected the government's plan for a "hard ecu" circulating in competition with EC currencies. It was not clear whether the government saw its proposed common currency as an alternative to a single currency or a quick way of achieving it, Mr Smith said.

At the summit, John Major will try to persuade his EC partners to put the "hard ecu" plan on the agenda for the inter-governmental conference on economic and monetary union (EMU).

The shadow chancellor was speaking at a Westminster press conference at which Labour sought to present itself as adopting a more constructive attitude to European integration than the Conservatives.

Roy Hattersley, Labour deputy leader, said that Mr Major was going to Rome ill equipped to represent Britain's best interests. The prime minister's policy towards the Community was shrouded in his customary grey mist.

However, Mr Smith's remarks, in which he also disagreed with Karl Otto Pöhl, president of the German Bundesbank, over arrangements for a European central bank and expressed reservations about this week's Madrid communiqué issued by

socialist leaders including Neil Kinnock, underlined the Opposition's hesitancy about closer European integration.

The leadership's tentative moves towards a more pro-European position are under fierce attack from a minority of Labour backbenchers led by Peter Shore, the former cabinet minister, who has accused it of playing the old European game of subscribing to the rhetoric in the belief that in the event nothing will happen.

Mr Hattersley said that Mr Shore had been wrong for a long time about Europe, but he did not intend to enter into a public argument with him.

Mr Smith denied that his insistence on a "substantial convergence" in economic performance among the 12 EC states amounted to an attempt to delay the advent of a single currency or a central bank.

"It most certainly is not and it is not seen as that," he said. "It is a better way of achieving it than by setting an arbitrary timetable and saying that by the first of January at such and such a date we will be assumed to have reached such a level."

Asked if such convergence would take place in the lifetime of a future Labour government, Mr Smith said: "I do not believe one should make these commitments. We must work ceaselessly to get our (economic) standards up."

Mr Smith and Mr Hattersley both made clear that the touchstone of Labour's European policy was the statement agreed by the national executive and not the Madrid communiqué. Mr Hattersley said the NEC paper was "sovereign".

The Madrid document acknowledges that full EMU will require budgetary responsibility among member states. It says that that could be achieved by laying down general rules for the financial basis of member state budgets.

But Mr Smith made clear that he would not be happy with such rigid arrangements. Labour favoured a looser approach. "It means regular discussions between the finance ministers to coordinate policies towards growth."



Smith: progress should not be dictated by "artificial dates that are put in a diary"

Bank governor under pressure to appear

By ROBERT MORGAN AND PETER MULLIGAN

ROBIN Leigh-Pemberton, governor of the Bank of England, came under strong pressure in the Commons last night to give evidence to the Commons select committee investigating the Harrods takeover.

Members of the trade and industry select committee expressed clear dissatisfaction with his refusal to give evidence to aid their investigation into the takeover of Harrods and the House of Fraser by the Fayed brothers.

One of them, Robin Maxwell-Hyslop, Conservative MP for Tiverton, said that the governor should consider his position.

Kenneth Warren, chairman of the committee and Conservative MP for Hastings and Rye, speaking in a debate on City regulation, said that the governor had had since March to consider appearing.

It was high time that he responded on the worrying matter of whether the Harrods bank and its directors, includ-

ing the Fayed, were trading in the proper manner under the requirements of the Banking Act.

Mr Maxwell-Hyslop said that the governor "has declined either to justify his inaction or to report his action to the committee... I think he ought to call into consideration his occupancy of that office."

The governor's duties, he added, included overseeing whether persons running a bank or controlling it were fit and proper.

"How it can be held that somebody who has lied in a major degree to government inspectors is a fit and proper person to control the Harrods bank passes my understanding."

Mr Warren discounted the governor's fears that he would face prosecution under the Banking Act by revealing confidential information to a parliamentary committee. His advice was that he would be protected by parliamentary privilege.

Anthony Nelson, Conservative MP for Chichester, said that the inspectors' report on the House of Fraser and the committee's report seemed to have been summarily dismissed by the government. He was one of several MPs who did not want to see the matter whitewashed. They would not let the matter go away and quietly be forgotten.

Mr Maxwell-Hyslop said that the "pyramid enterprise" of Harrods was in debt to the weakest of the three great banks of this country whose

Poll tax burden on the sick and old reduced

By OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government made further changes to the community charge yesterday aimed at reducing the burden on old and sick people and cutting the payments of people whose homes are provided by their employers.

Agricultural workers, the clergy and members of the armed services who live in homes provided by their employers and also own a property will be charged only half the personal community charge.

As the government conducts a fundamental review of the charge, Michael Portillo announced a series of new regulations that will ease the burden on people whose home is left empty.

Mr Portillo, the local government minister, said: "Many people will benefit financially from these changes which mean that they will face either no charge or half the rate of the personal community charge on certain types of empty property."

The changes announced

LOCAL TAXES

mean that nobody will be liable for the community charge for the first six months that a property is empty and nobody for the first six months after grant of probate or letters of administration where the person liable to the charge is acting as a personal representative. Under the previous regulations, the charge was liable after three months.

A person who enters a hospital or nursing home but does not sell his or her home will no longer have to pay the charge. The new regulations also mean that a person who because of old age, illness or disablement, has to leave his own home to be cared for elsewhere by a friend or relative will not pay the charge; nor will a carer who has to move from his own home to look after an elderly person.

Someone who has an empty property awaiting sale after repossession by a mortgage lender will not pay the charge and neither will people who have self-contained premises that it would be difficult to let separately.

In the Commons, the prime minister was pressed to announce an immediate change to community charge legislation to help those on low incomes. John Major promised that a statement on the future of the charge would be made in due course when the government had ended its examination of the whole question of the community charge.

Criticising Opposition MPs who are refusing to pay their community charge, Mr Major told a Labour MP who had demanded help for those on low incomes: "A very large number of people are eligible for a very substantial rebate system. You would make a good start if you could persuade some of your (Labour) friends to pay their community charge."

MPs may soon be able to go indoors

By JOHN LEWIS

THE sight of windswept MPs huddled under umbrellas outside the Commons while they give interviews may soon disappear from television.

The Commons broadcasting select committee has ordered a search for 2,000-3,000 square feet for a studio and new control room to govern televising of the Commons, Lords and committees.

The recent leadership contest, with the BBC and ITV setting up an outside broadcast "village" on College Green opposite the Lords, has underscored the need.

Now that MPs have voted for permanent televising of the Commons, the select com-

mittee believes that they should no longer have to huddle under umbrellas on College Green in bad weather while they are being interviewed. There has also been anxiety that the outside broadcast facilities are not secure.

In its search for a control room and interview studio, the select committee is looking at a site over the central lobby at Westminster, in the Treasury building basement in George Street or in stage one of the new parliamentary building in Bridge Street, where the St Stephen's Tavern stood before redevelopment. The central lobby site would be most popular.

Study of remand policy on boys

The Home Office is reviewing remand accommodation for boys aged 15 and 16; John Patten, minister of state, told the Commons that he hopes to announce a decision before or soon after Christmas.

He was replying to a question by Labour spokesman, Joan Lessor, who said that the House and country had been shocked at the suicide of Phillip Knight at Swansea prison. She said that boys should not be put in adult prisons.

BBC licence fee move

The home secretary, is hoping to make a statement about the future of the BBC licence fee in January, MPs were told at question time. Peter Lloyd, Home Office under secretary, said that Price Waterhouse, the chartered accountants, had been asked to advise on how the licence fee could be raised by less than the rise in the retail price index.

Hooligan law

When parliamentary time allows, legislation will be introduced to implement recommendations for curbing soccer hooligans that were contained in the report by Lord Justice Taylor on the Hillsborough stadium disaster, Peter Lloyd, Home Office minister, said.

Drugs unit

A Europe-wide drugs intelligence unit is likely to be set up to share information on drug trafficking in EC countries as well as central European nations and the Soviet Union, John Patten, Home Office minister, said.

Jail report

The report of the Woolf enquiry into the Strangeways prison riot is expected to be published early in the new year, Angela Rumbold, Home Office minister, said.

Cricket plan

The Sports Council is working on detailed initiatives for promoting cricket among young people in partnership with cricket clubs, Robert Atkins, minister for sport, said.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Debate on government's progress on economic and environmental issues in the developing world.

NINA RICCI PARIS



Ricci Club POUR HOMME

Bills face long, perilous, journey

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ANDREW Faulds wants bigger fines for shopowners who sell cigarettes to children under sixteen.

Rosie Barnes wants victims of medical negligence to be entitled to compensation without proving negligence by the National Health Service. Michael Woodcock wants the ban on televising court proceedings lifted and Conal Gregory is trying to ensure that every home is fitted with a domestic smoke alarm by 1994.

As backbench MPs they were among the top 20 drawn in the ballot for private members' bills, giving them the rare opportunity to promote legislation in the Commons and steer a bill through Parliament.

Early next year each MP's bill will be set down for a second reading, although the single word "object", probably uttered by a nameless government whip, may be enough to kill the measure. However, those measures finding favour with the government will be provided with encouragement, including assistance from the parliamentary draftsmen, to help them clear the legislative hurdles.

The Home Office is expected to give broad backing to a bill that seeks to increase the penalties from a maximum £400 to £2,000 for those convicted of selling tobacco to people under 16. Andrew Faulds, Labour MP for Warley East, topped the ballot with the Children and Young Persons (Protection from Tobacco) bill.

The measure also provides for a ban on the sale of tobacco to under-16s from vending machines, the selling of individual cigarettes to under-16s and prohibits some tobacco advertising. He has won cross-party support for the measure which is also supported by Des Wilson, the campaigner, the British College of Nursing and the British Medical Association. Ministers are likely to oppose increasing to £2,000 the maximum penalty for selling cigarettes to under-16s, although in the Criminal Justice bill, at present in committee, the maximum figure for a level three fine will rise from £400 to £1,000.

Sir Richard Body, scourge of big



Sir Richard Body: wants to make life better for breeding sows

farmers and the National Farmers' Union, will try through his Pig Husbandry bill to make life a little better for breeding sows.

A long-time opponent of intensive farming, Sir Richard's bill would stop the use of neck and girth tethers on expectant sows and ban breeding sows from being kept in crates that prevent them from turning round. The ban would become effective in five years.

Conservative and Labour MPs supporting the National Health Service (Compensation) bill, sponsored by Rosie Barnes, independent Social Democrat MP for Greenwich, will face strong government opposition. The most contentious bill in the list, it would allow victims of medical mistakes or the side effects of drugs or faulty equipment to claim compensation without proving negligence on the part of the health service. It would create a medical injury compensation board that would be able to hear complaints and make compensation and instigate legal action against a third party such as a drug company.

An attempt to ensure that people have greater information about the

safety of public buildings is being promoted in the Public Service Information bill, sponsored by John Bowis, Conservative MP for Battersea.

He has won cross-party support for legislation that would force the owner of a public building to notify the local authority of any safety hazard within 14 days of its being discovered. In another 14 days, the local council would have to put a notice about the hazard at the public entrance to the building.

Legislation to protect badger sets is to be introduced by Roy Hughes, Labour MP for Newport East, while Michael Woodcock wants to remove the ban on televising proceedings in court.

The prohibition on filming court proceedings was included in the 1925 Criminal Justice Act and Mr Woodcock's Courts (Research) bill would allow proceedings to be televised for an experimental period. The measure would also end the legal ban on approaching jurors to discover the discussion in the jury room and the way in which decisions are reached. It would enable research to be undertaken on trial by jury.

John Butcher's Estate Agents (Property Misdemeanours) bill aims to penalise estate agents who include distortions in the details of properties sent to prospective purchasers.

Mr Butcher, Conservative MP for Coventry South West, said: "It is an anachronism and anomaly that estate agents' description of domestic properties are not caught by the Trade Descriptions Act, 1968, which applies to the generality of goods and services sold by shops and other businesses."

With the first eight measures in the list generally believed to have the best chance of becoming law, Conal Gregory hopes that he will achieve his ambition of making it compulsory for every home to have a domestic smoke alarm by April 1, 1994. Mr Gregory's Domestic Smoke Alarms bill is number eight on the list, has support from Labour and Conservative MPs, Help the Aged, the National Housing and Town Planning Council and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents.

Anti-inflation policy starts to take its toll

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

UNEMPLOYMENT has risen by 155,100 since April, when the number registered as jobless started to increase after falling for 44 successive months.

The reason for the rise is clear: the squeeze on demand initiated by the government's high interest rate policy, aimed at reducing inflation, is forcing companies to cut costs and to shed labour.

How and where unemployment is rising is less obvious. What is clear, though, is that the present rise is not that similar to the increase of the early 1980s during the last big economic recession. "It's different qualitatively, and in terms of numbers," Paul Convery, of the Unemployment Unit pressure group, said. Then, there were large-scale lay-offs, with the loss of 4,000-5,000 jobs at a time quite commonplace.

Unemployment hit hard among male, manual, semi-skilled workers in manufacturing industries in the North, Scotland and the Midlands.

Yesterday's jobless figures raised the spectre of a return to the misery of the early 1980s, but, experts say, there are big differences

Now, at least so far, the picture is different. Lay-offs have been smaller — in part because there are fewer large plants than a decade ago. In the main, the largest contributor to rising unemployment has been non-recruitment: companies simply not taking on people.

Bill Daniel, director of the Policy Studies Institute and author of *The Unemployed Flow*, said that employers could shed 5 per cent of their labour over 12 months by not recruiting. Where redundancies are occurring, they are being met voluntarily. At present, analysts estimate that only a minority of the rise in unemployment is due to employ-

ees being thrown out of work against their will.

Many companies, especially the larger ones, are now better placed to cushion the effects of recession. Better-trained management and more fluid finances help. More flexible working arrangements — contracting out such services as cleaning, using more temporary and part-time staff and training employees to switch functions easily — allow companies to trim costs without shedding labour.

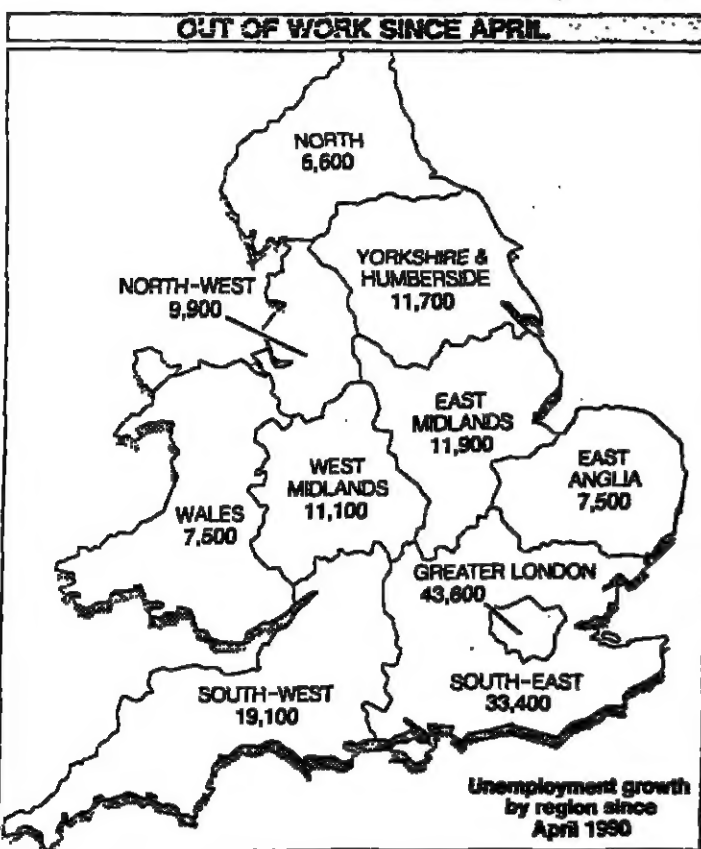
Smaller companies have less scope, and so far account for most of the rise in unemployment. Redundancies, however, are not an accurate measure of where unemployment has hit, in part because companies shedding fewer than ten people are not recorded. That probably includes many small service-sector businesses that have shut. The figures show a sharp rise in the proportion of redundancies in the service sector this time and lower totals for manufacturing industry.

The South-East, including London, is being hit hardest, accounting for half the unemployment rise since April. Unemployment among the young has leapt in the past year: 18-19 year olds now account for 8.6 per cent of the total, up from 8.1 per cent; 25-29 year olds form 16.7 per cent, up from 15.9 per cent. Other age bands are stable, with the proportion of the unemployed in their fifties down from 18.8 to 16.3 per cent.

Vacancies are an indicator of future trends, albeit a poor one since only a third of vacancies are notified. They are down by a third overall, by half in the South-East and East Anglia, and by 57 per cent in London. Employment figures, numbers in work, are holding up, but they are slow, lagged indicators and forecasters expect to see the rise in unemployment ending soon, perhaps as early as next month.

Whether all that will force down inflation is more questionable. Mr Daniel said that unemployment had yet to hit the core employees in large companies whose high pay settlements contributed to wage-led inflation. If that view, and the gloomy prospect indicated by the poor level of vacancies, is accurate, then unemployment will continue to rise for a considerable time yet.

Unemployment panic, page 12
Leading article, page 13



Farewell to a car phone for Charles Barker, whose post-recession fate typifies that of many

Jobless 'to peak at 2.5m'

By COLIN NARBROUGH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE sharp acceleration in unemployment in November signals the start of what most forecasters expect to be a rapid deterioration in the next few months that will push the number out of work back to well over two million next year.

As a lagging economic indicator, unemployment usually starts to increase six to nine months after a downturn in the business cycle.

The counter-inflationary squeeze the government set in train in 1988 has, in the opinion of many economists, taken a surprisingly long time to persuade companies to shed labour.

Changes in the population structure, with fewer young people entering the workforce, have been viewed as a key factor in slowing the return to sharply rising unemployment. Severe skills shortages in some sectors have also made employers more reluctant to resort to job-cutting.

As long as companies were convinced that the recession would only be mild, such arguments inhibiting labour-shedding were justifiable. With growing fears that the recession will be

much deeper than expected, attitudes could change fast. After unemployment started to pick up sharply in late 1979, the number of jobless increased by over 100,000 in some months. In the third quarter of 1980, the rise was 380,000. As the recession deepened, unemployment rose steadily to 2.5 million by 1981, and went on climbing to 3.3 million in 1986, albeit at a slower pace.

The present recession is likely to be less harsh, as will be the shake-out of labour. The workforce in manufacturing is some 2.25 million smaller than it was before the last recession. City forecasters expect the jobless total to climb to about 2.5 million in 1992.

With membership of the exchange-rate mechanism of the European Monetary System now constraining Britain's scope for adjustment, it is feared that the number of unemployed will remain above two million for most of the Nineties, considerably more than the present 1.7 million.

Behind the latest increase is a squeeze on company profits, which has increased in severity as the economy moves into recession. Unable to raise prices because of disappearing demand, firms have turned to shedding

labour to reduce their costs. Though anecdotal evidence would point to much of the pain being felt in the financial sector, the official figures suggest that manufacturing, the first sector to suffer from higher interest rates, is continuing to shrink its workforce. Every job in manufacturing is estimated to cost further jobs in allied industries.

Although the unemployment rate for women is much lower than for men, the picture is likely to change as part-time jobs in retailing and other service sectors come under increasing pressure.

In spite of the surge in unemployment, the government should be able to argue that Britain will still have a lower jobless rate than most of its European partners.

Wage inflation is expected to respond only slowly to rising joblessness. However, there are signs of hope. The annual rise in average earnings appears stuck at about 10 per cent, somewhat below the inflation rate.

Inflation is forecast to drop sharply by the end of next year, falling to below 6 per cent late next autumn. If earnings continue to track inflation, a key inflationary pressure will ease.

When the lotus life has to end

By BILL FROST

THERE was once a time when Charles Barker described himself as the man who had everything. As a director on the board of the successful advertising agency Colmans, he drew a salary of £75,000 a year, enjoyed a lavish expense account and drove an up-market company car.

The wheel of fortune turned full circle in July. Charles Barker was dismissed and is still unemployed. "The board called me in and told me the company could do better without me. It was as blunt as that," he said.

A slide into depression followed his dismissal. "I looked at myself and thought, 'you are fat, 46 and unemployed'." For several weeks Mr Barker suffered agonies of self-doubt. He was forced to trim his spending dramatically: no more holidays, no more expensive meals on the company, no more extravagant spending on luxuries.

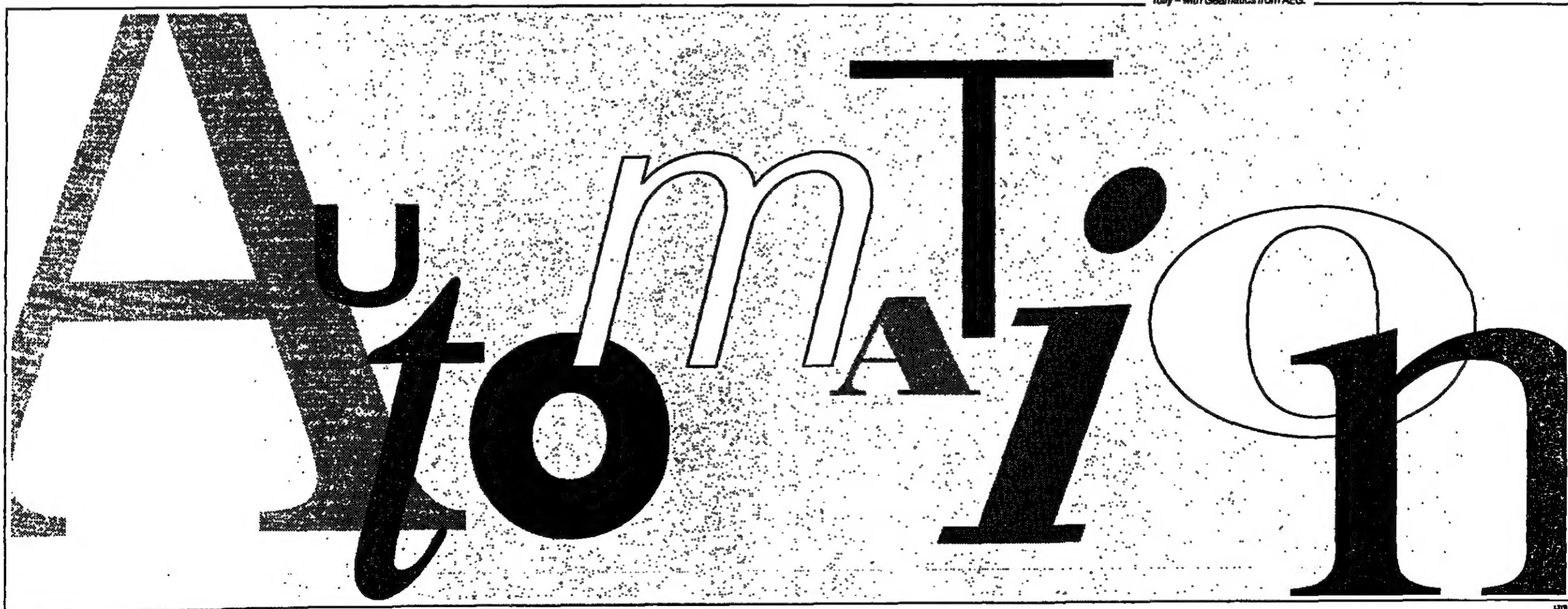
"It feels really horrible. You get the feeling you are in a whirling pit and you are full of this feeling of unnamed dread," he said. Gradually the depression wore off and self-esteem was restored. "I began to rationalise my predicament and realised that in these austere times the advertising industry is the first area to suffer. I also realised that at £75,000 a year I was an expensive commodity and lots of people got by quite nicely on considerably less than that."

Mr Barker described the life he once lived as pretty phoney. "It was all great fun for so many years. Now the party is over. Most of my friends in the industry have been made redundant over the last year. There are no more men with silly bow ties and ridiculously large salaries."

He described his fall from affluence as a character-forming experience. "It came at an awful time because I was splitting up with my wife, too. But I picked myself up and thought about the future and what I was going to do."

In the new year he is setting up a mail order fashion business, using capital from his redundancy payment. Meanwhile, he is still coming to terms with relative poverty. "I still drink whisky and champagne, but I go for cheaper brands. I can't afford the car phone any more, it is being taken out today."

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FRENCH, DRY AND MISUNDERSTOOD

Strategic arms treaty in sight as Moscow makes concessions

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE United States and Soviet Union have agreed a remarkable package of "trade-offs" this week in the search for a deal on reducing strategic weapons. The deal will exclude Britain's Trident system from treaty limits and allow American inspectors to monitor Soviet factories producing SS24 and SS25 mobile missiles.

Although there are about 30 highly technical points outstanding before a strategic arms reduction treaty can be signed, both sides are now confident that an agreement will be reached in time for the summit between President Bush and President Gorbachev next February.

According to sources, Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, produced some late concessions before leaving Washington where he had met President Bush. American officials have not had time to make a proper assessment of the concessions, but the details of the agreement that emerged yesterday show that the Americans have achieved nearly all their objectives.

One of the most important agreements is that the Soviet Union will have to cut its nuclear missile throw-weight — the total amount of deliverable destructive power, currently standing at five million megatons — by 50 per cent. The Americans, with a lower throw-weight, will have to reduce theirs by a much smaller amount.

For the British government, the most reassuring aspect of the deal is that Trident, the American missile that is to replace Polaris, will be excluded from a START agreement. The Russians have accepted that Britain's new deterrent will not affect the strategic balance. One American source said: "The US/UK nuclear co-operation programme will not be affected by START. The British government has every reason to be satisfied with this."

For the Americans, the most important part of the deal is the agreement by the Soviet Union to reduce its 308 SS18 missiles, the largest in its strategic arsenal, by a full 50 per cent. However, as a trade-off, the Americans have had to drop their demand for a limit on test flights of the SS18. The aim was to prevent the Russians from modernising the system. "There will be no quota in test flights but there will be some limits on modernisation," one source said.

The overall reduction in ballistic missiles will only be 30 per cent, not 50 per cent as had first been agreed between former President Reagan and President Gorbachev. But the 50 per cent cut

in SS18s, together with less stringent counting rules for bomber armaments, will have the effect of creating powerful incentives for the Soviet Union to place less reliance on destabilising land-based missiles in favour of greater numbers of more secure bombers and sea-based missiles. This has long been a goal of US arms control policy.

The treaty will be at least 500 pages long, filled with such a plethora of technical detail that



Shevardnadze made late concessions

follow-on negotiations to reduce strategic systems will be far less complex. "Start 1 will be a permanent legislative framework for subsequent negotiations," the source said.

Among the technical details still to be resolved are the finer points of the inspection regimes which will safeguard against cheating. The Americans have been anxious to have special perimeter monitoring facilities outside the Soviet factories producing the SS24 and SS25 missiles. As these are mobile

systems, there is greater scope for concealment. Soviet missile production is also different from the American system and it was considered vital that both the SS24 and the SS25 factories should be monitored.

After the talks in Houston between James Baker, the US secretary of state, and Mr Shevardnadze, it has been agreed in principle that the Americans should be able to set up permanent monitoring facilities outside the factories. The Russians will be able to do the same outside the American MX missile factory.

The treaty to be signed next February will have two separate declarations attached, which will give assurances on submarine-launched cruise missiles and the Soviet Backfire bomber. The Backfire is an intermediate-range bomber. The Soviet Union has agreed to promise in a declaration that it will not try to turn the Backfire into a strategic bomber.

Washington, meanwhile, was taking stock yesterday in the wake of the non-stop diplomacy that also saw the US offer the Soviet Union food aid on a scale not seen since the Second World War.

Mr Bush's decision to send aid to Moscow was generally welcomed in Congress and elsewhere, but it was widely perceived as an attempt to shore up President Gorbachev and there was some unease about investing so much in one beleaguered and unpopular leader.

A senior official also acknowledged that the administration was seriously concerned by signs of growing authoritarianism in Moscow and that Mr Baker had been given assurances by Mr Shevardnadze that there would be no crackdown on basic freedoms in the Soviet Union.



Walking advertisement: boutique owners and shopkeepers in Budapest have revived sandwich boards to publicise their wares, including Soviet army uniforms. The multilingual approach is designed to attract Western tourists visiting the Hungarian capital

Threat of arrest for pastor who defied Ceausescu

By GABRIEL RONAY

THE Protestant pastor whose challenge to Nicolae Ceausescu triggered last year's revolution in Romania has become the object of a hate campaign and faces arrest for allegedly "organising a second revolution to topple the Iliescu regime".

Just days before the first anniversary of the Romanian revolution, Vasile Vacaru, the Senate caucus leader of the ruling National Salvation Front, accused the Right Rev Laszlo Tokes, Bishop of Oradea, the hero of the moral resistance to communism,

of "anti-state and anti-national activities" and demanded the institution of criminal proceedings against him and his arrest. "Laszlo Tokes, a citizen of Romania, in his statements abroad has infringed the legal order of the country and has incited (his followers) to stage public disturbances," Mr Vacaru told parliament in Bucharest.

His demand for the bishop's arrest was repeated by Bucharest radio in every newscast throughout last Wednesday, indicating that Mr Vacaru's allegations form part of a wider, government-supported campaign. The bishop,

an ethnic Hungarian from Transylvania, returned to Romania last week after four months in hospital following a car crash in Hungary. He described Mr Vacaru's call for a criminal investigation as "simply fantastic". He added in a telephone interview from Oradea: "I feel threatened. But it is not only myself and my family who are under threat, but the achievements of Timisoara and the entire December revolution."

In a subsequent formal statement, which he sent abroad, he categorically denied all the charges, which he described as "a

diversionary move and a provocation" by the authorities timed for the revolution's first anniversary.

The statement went on: "I have not committed any acts against the legal order of our country, or offended the state or nation. Similarly baseless are the allegations carried by a wide circle of hostile Romanian newspapers."

The bishop said hate-filled articles in newspapers had variously described him as being a CIA agent, a traitor to Romania, a Transylvanian irredentist, or a paid agent of both the former Hungarian and Romanian secret services. He added: "I should like

to draw the attention of public opinion in Romania and abroad to the fact that for months now I have been the object of a crude press hate campaign, organised from the background, in which certain high-ranking officials, deputies and senators are clearly involved. The intention is to liquidate me."

He said a close relation had become the victim of a knife attack, a former Timisoara aide of his had been attacked by thugs and was now in hospital and the walls and gates of his bishop's residence were regularly vandalised and covered in abusive graffiti.

Kremlin replaces general in Germany

Berlin — The Kremlin has appointed a 55-year-old army colonel-general, Marvey Burlakov, to pull its 380,000 troops out of united Germany by 1994 (Reuter reports).

He replaces General Boris Snetskov as commander-in-chief of the Western Group of Soviet Forces, one of the top jobs in the Soviet military.

"Burlakov will arrive in the next few days and Snetskov will leave before the New Year," said a Soviet army spokesman at group headquarters in Wunsdorf, south of Berlin.

Diplomats said General Burlakov had proved himself to be an able organiser as commander of Soviet forces in Hungary during their withdrawal.

He is one of the last senior officers who fought in the second world war.

Land reform plan

Prague — Czechoslovakia's government yesterday proposed a land reform scheme that will allow millions of people to reclaim land confiscated since the Communist seizure of February 1948. The bill will also prohibit the sale of land to foreign individuals and companies, and will permit landowners to withdraw their land from co-operative farms.

Bonn road tax

Bonn — All road users in Germany, including foreign tourists, are likely to have to pay an annual toll of DM 100 (£35) from early next year to raise money needed to maintain roads and railways. Lorries and buses face a levy of up to DM 1,000. The toll is being discussed by the three coalition parties negotiating a programme for the next government.

Schluter holds on

Copenhagen — Negotiations began on forming a new Danish government after Wednesday's election saw record gains for the opposition Social Democrats but pointed to the continuation of the minority coalition under Poul Schluter. His 2½-year-old Conservative-Liberal-Radical coalition won 66 seats in the 179-seat Folketing, a loss of only one seat.

Kiev strike fails

Kiev — A general strike called to coincide with the opening of the Communist party's two-day congress in Kiev ended in almost total failure yesterday. All main military and civil factories in the city and its surrounding province continued working, although there was patchy support for the action, organised by the city's anti-communist strike committee.

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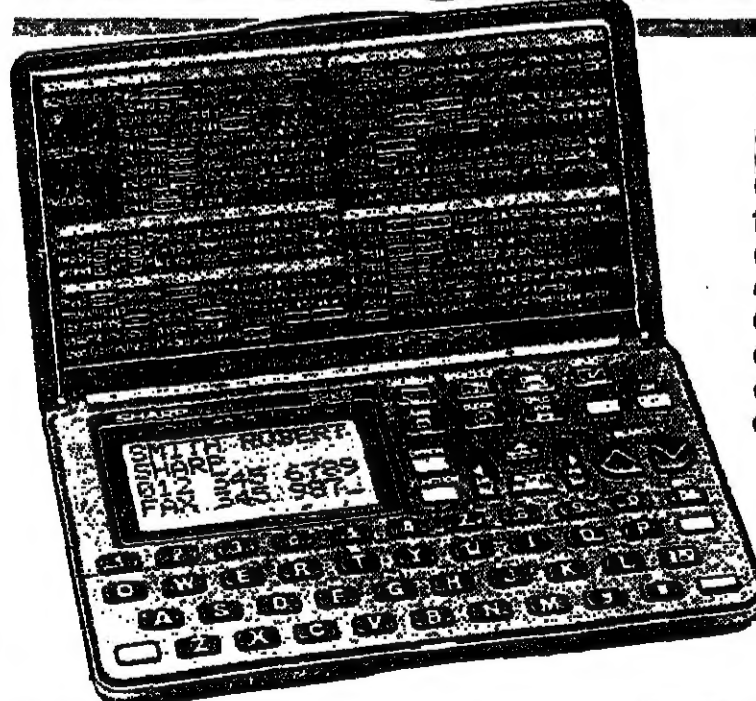


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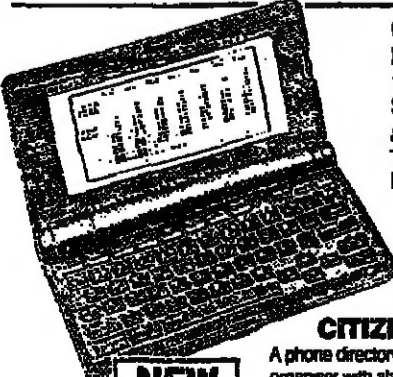
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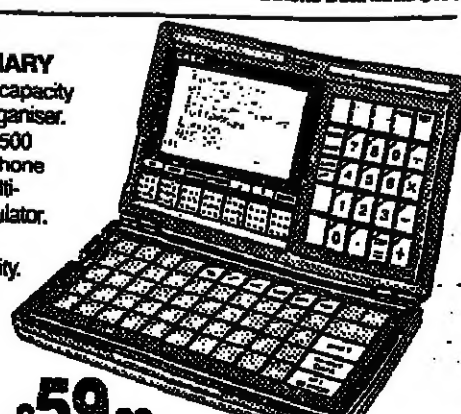
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Political row follows death of top French terrorist judge

THE suicide of a prominent investigating magistrate who had been at the heart of France's anti-terrorist campaign has sparked off an ugly political confrontation here.

Within hours of yesterday's news that Gilles Bouloque had shot himself at his home in Paris, the mainstream conservative opposition had begun an angry campaign against what it claims was a deliberate campaign by the Socialist government to destroy his professional reputation and drive him out of the job.

While first reports suggested that M Bouloque, aged 40, had not left any message that might explain his death, it was widely believed that the severe strain to which his onerous, extremely risky, position had exposed him was a crucial factor.

Police sources said he had quarrelled with his wife after returning home from an exhibition of paintings and then shot himself in the head using a pistol he carried for protection against terrorist attacks.

An expert in Middle East guer-

rilla movements, Bouloque had led the investigations into the wave of bomb attacks on public places in Paris in 1986 by a suspected Iranian-backed Islamic extremist network, which left 13 people dead and more than 100 badly injured.

Earlier, in 1984, he investigated an attempt to kill the United States consul-general in Strasbourg.

At the time of his death, Bouloque was investigating the possible French connections of pro-Iranian Hezbollah guerrillas, detained in Spain last year with a large quantity of explosives, apparently intended for a series of attacks in Western Europe.

In particular, observers here have cited the controversial aftermath of his handling of the dossier involving Wahid Gerdji, then an employee of the Iranian embassy in Paris, suspected of terrorist offences, linked to the 1986 bombings, as a possible reason for his suicide.

Wahid Gerdji was one of the magistrate's prime suspects. Officially a translator but with a wide

A "deliberate campaign" by the Socialist government to destroy the reputation of a leading magistrate has been blamed for his suicide, writes Philip Jacobson

circle of "useful" friends, the Iranians refused to produce him for interrogation and the so-called "war of the embassies" began in 1987 with French police surrounding the Iranian embassy from where Mr Gerdji refused to emerge and the Iranians retaliating by laying siege to the French embassy in Tehran, trapping the diplomats inside.

A settlement was eventually reached under which, it is generally believed, France's then conservative government agreed to allow Mr Gerdji to leave the embassy and the country providing he agreed first to be available for questioning.

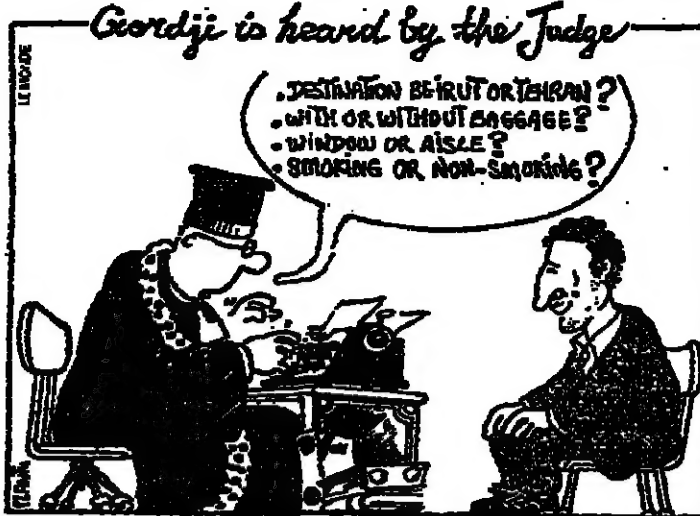
In the highly-complicated transactions at the time, it was rumoured that the subsequent release of some French hostages held in Lebanon might have been connected.

In November 1987, after a brief encounter with M Bouloque, he



Bouloque: travelled in armoured-plated vehicles

took a plane back to Tehran. A cruel, heavily publicised, cartoon in *Le Monde* summed up public reaction to what was widely seen as a cynical exercise in expediency, with M Bouloque depicted in his robes of office, "interrogating" the suspected terrorist simply about his choice of seat on the plane: "window or aisle?" "smok-



Plantu's *Le Monde* cartoon of Bouloque and Gerdji

ing or non-smoking?" and so on. The Gerdji affair subsequently became a hot potato in the French presidential election campaign, with the two leading candidates, President Mitterrand and Jacques Chirac, France's prime minister during the bombings, clashing over conflicting allegations of being soft on terrorism.

To his dismay, M Bouloque went from being the highly-intelligent judge who had helped eventually to bring some of those involved in the bombings to trial, to being increasingly caught up in the row as stories about him submitting to political pressure from this side or that began to appear in the French press. He

responded by taking legal action against *Le Monde* and other newspapers.

A tall, athletic figure who was often seen on French television in the middle of a squad of heavily armed bodyguards, M Bouloque uncomplainingly accepted his dangerous position. Faced with personal threats from dedicated and accomplished terrorists, he usually carried a gun and travelled everywhere in armoured-plated vehicles.

In a terse statement yesterday, M Chirac paid homage to M Bouloque's personal courage and integrity. It was left to his former interior minister, the combative Charles Pasqua, to assault the Socialist government for failing to support "this victim of duty, of ministerial indifference and of the ingratitude of the state".

One of the main associations of French magistrates passed a harsher verdict, claiming that "governmental and journalistic networks" should examine their own responsibility for M Bouloque's death. In a message of condolence to his family, Henri Nallet, the present minister of justice, indicated that a "personal drama" was behind the tragedy.

Albania uses troops to quell city protesters

FROM REUTERS IN VIENNA

POLICE and troops clashed with demonstrators in the Albanian city of Shkoder yesterday after they attacked Communist party and government buildings, Tirana radio said.

Security forces were ordered in after "hooligans" armed with iron bars threw stones at district party and government buildings and attacked the local radio station. The radio report, monitored by the BBC, came a day after President Alija appealed for calm as communist Albania's moved towards democracy.

Shkoder is located about 80 miles north of Tirana. The radio said the district police chief, a policeman and another official were injured by "elements wielding iron bars". The report also suggested that party activists had taken to the streets to oppose the demonstrators.

"In order to oppose these acts, citizens of Shkoder, workers, communists, and other working people, took to the streets. Nevertheless, the hooligans persisted in their behaviour," the radio said. "In order to reimpose order and calm in the city and to defend government and social institutions, the forces of public order and the army came into action."

"Today's events in Shkoder show that, despite the warnings issued by comrade Ramiz Alija ... there are certain dark forces which seek

to destabilise the situation in the country."

It was not clear from the Albanian radio report whether the army was forced to open fire, and there was no immediate indication whether the situation had quietened and the unrest had ended.

Reports throughout this year have spoken of anti-communist unrest in Shkoder. The radio bulletin was the first confirmation that Shkoder was a trouble spot and the first to record use of troops to quell unrest.

One report in January said a statue of Stalin in the city was toppled.

President Alija appealed in a national address for calm on Wednesday night hours after tens of thousands of Albanians massed in the capital, Tirana, to form the country's first independent political party in 45 years of Communist rule.

The president, who steered reforms allowing multi-party democracy through the Communist party's central committee, told listeners that democracy should not be viewed as "a liberation from all forms of political morality".

He added: "If such ideas and forms of behaviour increase and spread, the danger will arise of the country's destabilisation and descent into anarchy."

● **BELGRADE:** As Albanian students continued their demonstrations in workers from the factories of Tirana yesterday came out in support of the students (Dessa Trevisan writes).

Security police guarding public buildings, including television and radio, have been reinforced in the capital, according to witnesses.

The students, who have already obtained big concessions from the authorities, continue to press their demands for full university autonomy, as well as for guarantees that the democratic changes would not be limited or stopped.

A conference of the Albanian Communist party has been hastily convened for December 26 and dismissals of government ministers and party officials are expected to follow within the next few days.

Witnesses describe the atmosphere in Tirana as a mixture of fear and popular jubilation after the first concession from the regime.



Quake devastation: Sicilian villagers in Carlestrini surveying the damage after an earthquake wrecked their homes and cars yesterday. At least 14 people were killed and hundreds injured when the tremor, measuring 5.1 on the Richter scale, struck the eastern part of the island (Paul Bompard writes from Rome).

The quake was felt all along the island's east coast but Carlestrini, about 20 miles southwest of Catania, was hardest hit. Three blocks of flats

collapsed; nine bodies have been found and more people are believed to be still buried under the rubble. Buildings were seriously damaged in other towns, and at least two elderly people died of heart attacks as a result of the earthquake.

The ground shook violently for 45 seconds at 1.24 am local time yesterday. A survivor said that "it seemed to go on forever". Thousands of Sicilians spent the rest of the night in their cars. Italy's national seismologi-

cal institute put the quake's epicentre at about six miles off the historic port of Syracuse.

Five tremors were felt in quick succession over a large part of Sicily and authorities estimated the total damage at £230 million.

All through yesterday rescue teams, hampered by rain and bitter winds, searched through the wreckage of the three modern buildings in Carlestrini. The town's older houses survived the tremor.

History at odds with Jaruzelski

FROM ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

POLAND, in limbo between two very different presidents, yesterday solemnly marked the ninth anniversary of the introduction of martial law. The historical irony was obvious: Lech Walesa, as Solidarity leader the main symbolic victim of that era, is shortly to replace General Wojciech Jaruzelski, his jailer.

"Let history judge Jaruzelski," said the daily *Gazeta Wyborcza*. "Let history judge all of us."

The general himself is convinced even today that he effectively saved Poland by suspending, and later outlawing Solidarity, and interning more than 5,000 of its sympathisers. His Council of National Salvation - a group of generals co-operating with avowedly socialist reformers - cut off telephones, gave sweeping powers to military courts, mobilised thousands of riot troops, imposed strict censorship and banned several organisations.

He told the Italian newspaper *La Stampa*: "If I had not done it, I would have borne responsibility for later events, for tragedy which among other things would have delayed for many years the appearance of Mikhail Gorbachev and the end of the

Cold War." He was referring to the threat of a Soviet invasion. His main spokesman, Wlodzimierz Lotzinski, says that in November 1981 the general was invited by Marshal Victor Kulikov, Warsaw Pact commander-in-chief, to visit Soviet troops in Poland.

But their plane landed instead on Soviet territory. In a saloon car at a siding on a railway station, Yuri Andropov, the then KGB chief, was waiting with the Kremlin's chief ideologist, Mikhail Suslov. "We wouldn't want to be forced to help you," the Polish general was told, "but the Soviet Union cannot accept the idea of Poland switching systems."

This will be the general's historic defence. In a farewell address to Poles this week he admitted many errors, but none of these errors - unspecified - related to imposing martial law. He was convinced that unless the Polish leadership regained control over the pace of change from Solidarity, the Soviet Union would invade. Yet interior ministry researchers have not found any evidence of Soviet war preparations and most of the relevant documents have been shredded.

Emergency in the Caucasus region

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN TBILISI

A STATE of emergency has been declared in Tskhinvali, the capital of the autonomous region of South Ossetia in Georgia, following the shooting of a policeman and two interior ministry employees. The killings followed a declaration on Tuesday by the Georgian supreme council abolishing the territory's autonomy.

A Soviet military spokesman described the situation in the area, which has a mixed Ossete and Georgian population, as extremely delicate, and warned of the danger of "a new Nagorno-Karabagh". This confrontation has serious implications for the future of the ethnically-divided Georgian republic and for the course of its separation from the Soviet Union, planned by the new Georgian government of Zviad Gamsakhurdia.

According to a Georgian government spokesman the three men were shot by Ossete Nationalist extremists on Wednesday evening while driving passed the Communist party headquarters in Tskhinvali. Three other people were wounded, one seriously.

A state of emergency was

immediately declared in the city and the territory's second town, Dzhaba, by the Georgian supreme council. It is being implemented by troops of the Soviet interior ministry, which are in control of the area.

The Georgian government is demanding that Georgian police and interior ministry troops should also be involved in the operation. A spokesman said that this is necessary to ensure what he called "even handed" behaviour. He accused the Soviet interior ministry troops of patrolling only the Georgian inhabited areas of the territory.

Impelled by developments in South Ossetia, the Georgian supreme council last week passed a draconian law giving it the right to establish a state of emergency. The law allows that, "in especially dangerous areas", the entire population can be told to move to another area.

After coming to power last month, Mr Gamsakhurdia promised that his government would not annul the autonomy of South Ossetia, or of Abkhazia and Abkhazia.

Russian migration, page 12

Teutonic efficiency snowed up

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

BRITAIN'S commuters can take heart. They are not alone. German trains are running later and later. They were especially bad at timekeeping during the recent sudden spell of bad winter weather. Yesterday one of them disappeared with 30 passengers on board.

According to Deutschen Bundesbahn's own statistics only 65 out of every 100 trains in Germany nowadays arrive within five minutes of the time in timetables. During the bad weather this week only 41 trains per 100 reached their destination on time.

Yesterday one express between Frankfurt and Stuttgart failed to get through at all. In the snowy Odenwald, some five miles north of the Neckar Valley, the driver was stopped by a tree across the line. The telephone line had been cut by the bad weather, so the guard set off on foot for help.

He had barely trudged off when a relief engine arrived and, instead of towing the train back, the crew sawed up the tree so that the express could move on. A few hundred yards further on, however, another tree had fallen. The train stopped again.

Meanwhile, back in Frankfurt, the regional office had alerted the police who sent up a helicopter to search for the train. It was not there. By then the crew had given up and driven back to the nearest station. The passengers were given a free lunch and went on their way by a different route.

Castle plants, page 16

Resistance myth challenged

By PHILIP JACOBSON

THE enduring myth that most French were solidly united in resistance to the German occupation has come under close scrutiny in a film just released here. Challenging the comfortable assumption that only a tiny minority of traitors were involved in the Vichy regime's collaboration with the nazis, it focuses on the period when a systematic, often brutal, settling of accounts was taking place throughout France.

Directed by Claude Berri, *Uranus* is set in a small village which comes under the control of communist resistance fighters at the height of the *épuration*, or purge, that began shortly before the liberation and continued into 1945. Estimates of the number of French killed by various resis-

tance groups vary wildly, but at least 10,000 executions are believed to have taken place. Victims of summary justice included collaborators and members of fascist organisations, civil servants and those who served in the nazi militia.

M Berri's film, adapted from a novel by Marcel Aymé, poses questions that the French have always preferred to leave unanswered. Without offering any sweeping moral judgements, it subtly undermines the national amnesia, reminding audiences that a great many villages in France at the time contained ordinary people who, in M Berri's phrase, were "neither monsters nor heroes".

With one or two notable exceptions, French films have

always shied away from the intensely sensitive issue of how many actually fought the Germans, how many collaborated with them, how many people simply kept their heads down and tried to stay out of trouble. The most reliable estimates suggest there were some 400,000 "active" fighters, or about 2 per cent of the wartime adult population.

As for collaboration, however defined, French records show that some two million men and women were affected by various measures taken during the *épuration*.

Early reactions to *Uranus* have been mixed, with historians of the era generally approving while French communists fume about the "unworthy" depiction of their resistance heroes.

NUMBER XI: OF BURGOLERS AND HOGSHEADS (OR... ROBBING THE ANGELS).

GLENMORANGIE

10 YEARS OLD
SINGLE HIGHLAND MALT
SCOTCH WHISKY

John Urquhart, Head Cooper, practises his patient craft in the low, whitewashed cooperage of the Glenmorangie Distillery. He carefully reams each bung-hole to a PERFECT fit. Johnny acknowledges that during the make's TEN YEARS in the wood, much will be 'lost to the angels' through evaporation. But why, he reasons, should they receive more than their due share?

HANDCRAFTED BY THE SIXTEEN MEN OF TAIN.

Iraq trains citizens in civil defence as diplomacy founders

From MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

IRAQ, showing no sign that it will pull out of Kuwait by the United Nations deadline which is just a month away, yesterday announced it had set up hundreds of civil defence training centres to prepare the population for war.

Diplomatic efforts, meanwhile, were foundering with Iraq and the United States unable to agree on a date for direct talks while the latest Arab mediator, President Chadli Benjedid of Algeria, reportedly cancelled a visit to Saudi Arabia.

The Iraqi news agency said that 370 civil defence training centres had been set up in Baghdad alone to instruct the people in firefighting, first aid and other skills to "avoid human and material losses during emergency operations". For the last two weeks nightly programmes on Baghdad television have shown viewers how to put on gas masks and how to cope with bomb blasts and there have been several evacuation rehearsals in Baghdad.

Hundreds of government employees are shown assiduously attending civil defence

courses while senior government officials have been touring the country to educate the people on the hazards they may face. Landlords who own buildings with two or more floors have been ordered to convert their basements into bomb shelters, or face fines or imprisonment.

The Iraqi people became used to civil defence measures during the eight-year war with Iran, which in its later stages involved long-range missile attacks on cities. Even this would be little preparation for the massive aerial bombing of Baghdad predicted by military analysts if the multinational forces are ordered to drive Iraq out of Kuwait.

Some Iraqis saw the civil defence preparations as an elaborate ploy by the authorities to prepare the ground for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. "It's a psychological game to make the people believe war is imminent, so when Saddam Hussein announces a pull-out from Kuwait, the people will be so relieved they won't question the move," said an Iraqi exile who is in daily contact with

his family in Baghdad by telephone. "My parents say most people aren't taking the civil defence measures seriously because they don't think it will come to war," he said. "After Bush offered direct talks, they're sure a compromise is being worked out."

Those talks appeared deadlocked yesterday because of continued squabbling over their timing. Iraq denounced the United States for rejecting its proposed date for peace talks in Baghdad and accused President Bush of wanting the talks only as a public relations exercise for domestic consumption before war.

A foreign ministry spokesman in Baghdad said it would set the date for the American Secretary of State, James Baker, to go to Baghdad while Iraq had no objection to Washington setting the time for Iraq's foreign minister, Tariq Aziz, to go to the United States. "Iraq is the one that fixes the suitable dates for the visit and meeting with its president and the United States has the right to do the same," the Iraqi news agency said.



Eyes right: a Franciscan monk glancing at two Israeli soldiers as they cross Manger Square in Bethlehem. Major-General Yitzhak Mordechai, Israel's West Bank army chief, who was touring the town four days after a roadside bomb killed a soldier there, promised to protect pilgrims to Bethlehem this Christmas despite the Palestinian uprising (Reuters reports).

"We can promise all the tourists of the world... who come here to Bethlehem, to Jerusalem, to Israel, that they can feel as safe in these areas as they feel in other Western countries."

Kuwait Britons remain in hiding

Attempts by the government to persuade the Britons who remain in Iraqi-occupied Kuwait to come out of hiding and return home appear to have fallen on deaf ears (Andrew McEwen writes). Yesterday, only four Britons boarded a plane from Kuwait to Baghdad, chartered by the United States government, despite appeals broadcast over the BBC World Service.

The Foreign Office said Michael Weston, the ambassador in Kuwait, and Lawrence Banks, first secretary, would try to contact the estimated 40 Britons before being evacuated themselves next week. They would "advise them strongly" to leave.

The four who left were due to join about 21 Britons who have been in Iraq at Baghdad airport and were expected to fly to Frankfurt. This would leave about 140 Britons in Iraq. The flight was delayed by several hours, and it was not thought that they would be able to complete their journey to Britain until today.

Ferry chartered

Britain has chartered the world's largest roll-on, roll-off ferry, the Atlantic Conveyor, to take military supplies to the Gulf region, a ministry of defence spokeswoman said. The 42,988-tonne cargo ship, which was built with a government subsidy in 1985, will leave Bremerhaven on December 20. (Reuters)

Amnesty issued

Baghdad - Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council has issued a general amnesty for all Iraqis abroad, including military deserters, the newspaper *al-Thawra* reported. It quoted a decree as saying the two-month amnesty would cover political crimes as well as army deserters. (Reuters)

Bonn priority

Bonn - Finding a solution to the Palestinian problem must be given priority after the ending of the Gulf confrontation. Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the German foreign minister, said after a meeting here with Prince Saud al-Faisal, his Saudi opposite number, who is on a visit to Germany.

Belgian concern

Brussels - Mark Eyskens, the Belgian foreign minister, said after meeting Wissam Shawkat al-Zahawi, the Iraqi deputy foreign minister, that he was concerned about Baghdad's apparent lack of flexibility in finding a solution to the Gulf conflict. In their discussion, both sides restated their positions. (Reuters)

Egyptian exodus

Amman - About 80,000 of the 180,000 Egyptians working in Jordan have left the country since July, driven out by the depressed economy, unemployment - running at almost 25 per cent - and reported harassment by Jordanians angry at Egypt's stand on events in the Gulf, border officials said. (Reuters)

Bush tries to stiffen European resolve

From ROBIN OAKLEY IN ROME

PRESIDENT Bush yesterday set out to stiffen the resolve of European nations wavering over support for the use of force against Iraq if President Saddam Hussein does not withdraw from Kuwait by next month's UN-supported deadline.

As the European Community leaders flew to Rome for the latest summit, at which they will discuss moves for the closer co-ordination of foreign and security policy, Mr Bush wrote to Giulio Andreotti, the Italian prime minister and current EC president, insisting that America would not negotiate any deal with the Iraqi leader.

Mr Bush's letter said that President Saddam was now using diplomacy to weaken the coherence of the worldwide coalition against him and to postpone "the potential use of force".

Mr Bush, who has been anxious to dispel the impression that appeasement is in the air, said that the rest of the world must retain a "very rigid attitude" and insisted that the return of hostages had changed nothing.

It had not altered the determination of the United States and the allies to see that all the measures approved by the United Nations Security Council were implemented.

'Racist' scrolls editor dismissed

From CHARLES BREMNER IN NEW YORK AND RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

Western scholars in Jerusalem yesterday confirmed that the British-born professor in charge of deciphering the remaining Dead Sea Scrolls had been removed from his position because of remarks regarded by the Israeli authorities as anti-semitic.

Dr John Strugnell, a professor of divinity at Harvard University, had been collaborating with Israeli scholars on deciphering the ancient scrolls discovered in 1947 at Qumran on the Dead Sea. The majority of the scrolls were deciphered and published in the years following the discovery, but thousands of fragments remain at the Rockefeller Museum in east Jerusalem. Professor Strugnell's dismissal has raised hopes that after four decades of delays, the celebrated texts may soon be published in their entirety.

The small international team of scholars who control the scrolls project voted to remove Professor Strugnell, aged 60, from his post as editor-in-chief, formally citing his ill health as the reason. But team members said the final straw was an interview he gave to an Israeli daily newspaper last month.

He told *Haaretz*: "I think Judaism is a racist religion, something very primitive. What bothers me about

Judaism is the very existence of Jews as a group, as members of the Jewish religion. The Sabbath laws are a wonderful excuse for laziness. When I look at details of Jewish law (*Halakha*), including sex, I think, 'That's amusing, it's not religion'. These people are acting according to what I would call folklore." He subsequently denied that what he said was anti-semitic, but said: "It's the old Christian response to the Jewish problem."

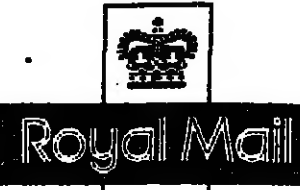
Harvard officials said Professor Strugnell was in hospital in Cambridge, Massachusetts, this week and unavailable for comment. Dr Frank Moore Cross, a Harvard colleague and one of the original eight scholars given exclusive rights to the scrolls in the 1950s, said he had reluctantly voted to oust Professor Strugnell. "The interview certainly contributed," he told *The New York Times*. "But the interview was impossible without his illness."

The Israeli government, which has custody of the scrolls, must approve the team's decision, but there is unlikely to be dissent because local scholars had joined in the international criticism of Professor Strugnell's attempts to keep the undeciphered manuscripts - still about 35 per cent of the body - restricted to a coterie of specialists.

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Crowds greet 'hero' Tambo as 30-year exile ends

From GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

OLIVER Tambo, the African National Congress president, came home yesterday after 30 years in exile to a relatively small but enthusiastic reception from his supporters.

A burly black council worker, festooned in ANC emblems, said it all. Dancing for joy, he beamed at the slight figure of Mr Tambo, acknowledging the cheers of the crowd, and said: "This is the man who kept the ANC fires burning throughout the world when they were being extinguished in South Africa. This is the man we have been waiting for."

In contrast to the tumultuous scenes which greeted Nelson Mandela on his release from prison in February, little more than 5,000 people turned up at Johannesburg airport to welcome the ailing old man who was their tireless roving ambassador during the darkest days of apartheid.

Mr Tambo, aged 73, would probably have drawn a bigger crowd but for confusion over official permission for a mass rally which came only on the eve of his return. In the event, the assembly made up in noise what it lacked in numbers, but it was disappointed by the response from its revered leader.

After his flight from Zambia had been delayed for two hours, Mr Tambo emerged on a balcony of the terminal building, flanked by Mr Mandela, his life-time friend

and deputy president. Partially paralysed by a stroke, he was evidently unable to address the throng, and mutely returned the chants and ululating by lifting his useless right arm with his left to form a clenched fist salute. He was at once an inspiring and a saddening sight to his admirers.

It was left to Mr Mandela to give a brief eulogy: "Comrades, the day we have all been waiting for is here. We welcome comrade Oliver Tambo as one of the greatest heroes of Africa." After promising a presidential address at a rally near Soweto on Sunday, he requested the crowd to disperse peacefully.

A few choruses of "Khumula" (speak) were ignored, and the masses gradually drifted away, shepherded unnecessarily by snarling police dogs.

Mr Tambo's return completes the line-up of old guard ANC leaders who have emerged from prison and exile, and presages crucial policy debates in preparation for constitutional negotiations with the government. His first public engagement is an opening address to more than 1,600 delegates at a consultative conference near Johannesburg today.

His speech is eagerly awaited, but his influence has been diminished by his illness. While Mr Tambo commands undoubted respect and affection throughout the organization, effective leadership has passed to Mr Mandela.

Together they face enormous challenges. Having failed to attract the mass support it anticipated, the ANC opens its three-day conference riven by conflicting views and wavering loyalties.

While Mr Mandela's continued leadership is assured, there are rumblings of discontent among exiles and militant youth demanding mass protest action.

EC in line to retain Pretoria sanctions

From ROBIN OAKLEY
POLITICAL EDITOR
IN ROMÉ

BRITISH hopes that the European Community summit in Rome would agree to slackening sanctions against South Africa as an encouragement to President de Klerk to continue dismantling apartheid were fading last night.

Pio Mastrobuoni, spokesman for Giulio Andreotti, the current EC president, said he believed the European Council would take the view that there was still much to be done, and reforms had not reached their final destination. There were still some "very worrisome problems".

Signor Mastrobuoni suggested that any communiqué was likely to emphasise the need for further action on democracy and human values and rights in South Africa, and that judgment could not yet be made "in final terms".

Officials have been considering various forms of action, including lifting the ban on new investment in South Africa (a move taken unilaterally by Britain already), a promise that sanctions will be eased in response to specific action on such matters as the Group Areas Act, and a declaration welcoming Pretoria's reforms but insisting more must be done before the removal of community sanctions.

At the Dublin summit this year, British officials believed that they had the support of the Italians for easing sanctions. But Rome has apparently been deterred by an appeal from Nelson Mandela, Ireland and Denmark are against any concessions without "profound and irreversible change" in South Africa, while France and Germany are neutral on the issue.



Come fly with me: Frank Sinatra, on what he described as "the happiest night of my life", singing to an audience of nearly 20,000 people at his 75th birthday concert in East Rutherford, New Jersey

Harare land law fuels white alarm

From JAN RAATH IN HARARE

ZIMBABWE's parliament yesterday gave hasty approval to legislation that attempts to assuage the land hunger of millions of peasants while simultaneously undoing the constitutional rights to property. MPs whistled, ululated and chanted guerrilla songs as the constitutional amendment bill was passed.

It is the weapon which the government plans to use to seize nearly half the 30 million acres now farmed by white farmers, and resettle up to 110,000 peasants.

It will allow the government to confiscate the land, and then compensate the white farmers at a price of its own choosing. It expressly deprives the farmers from seeking redress from the courts.

It will "fly in the face of all accepted norms of modern society, and the rule of law," said Enock Dumbutshena, Zimbabwe's recently retired chief justice who has been one of the few to condemn land seizure in the fertile tobacco and maize belt in the north-

east of the country. This would cost the government £600 million but, Emmerson Munangagwa, the minister of justice said, "we simply cannot afford the luxury of paying adequate, prudent and remittable compensation for the compulsory acquisition of land." He indicated that he plans to offer not money but government bonds to farmers.

The move is a desperate attempt to settle the issue that has been at the heart of Zimbabwean politics since Cecil Rhodes distributed huge areas of land to white pioneers a century ago.

As a result, some 4,500 white farmers own big tracts of land, while black peasants are crammed into overcrowded and overworked holdings.

The parliamentary debate took an ugly, racist tone last week, with Sabina Mugabe, President Mugabe's sister, claiming that black servicemen who fought in the second world war were given bicycles on their return, while whites were given farms.

"Must we stay as squatters in the land of our birth? Give them (the whites) bikes, and take our land," she exclaimed. The Commercial Farmers' Union, caught off-guard by the unexpected swiftness of the legislation, has not commented publicly but its members are close to panic.

The move has ruinous potential for the country and its slipping economy. The morale of the white farmers is undermined. It also rings the death knell for the government's hopes of attracting - under its economic liberalisation programme - the foreign investment desperately needed to provide jobs for nearly two million unemployed young men and women.

Even ministry of agriculture officials are at a loss to understand how the "revolutionary land programme" is to be implemented when only two-thirds of the 7.5 million acres bought by the government since independence has been resettled.

The government has no money to establish an infrastructure on confiscated land and the modest resettlement attempts have failed.

It has also become obvious that even the seizure of as much land as possible will be inadequate to provide land for the landless.

Ministry of agriculture officials in the southern Masvingo province have estimated that if all the commercial land in the province were seized, they would be able to help only 11,000 of the 45,000 peasant families needing resettlement.

Home at last: a smiling Nelson Mandela, right, watches as an African National Congress official embraces Oliver Tambo, the organisation's president, after his arrival at Johannesburg airport from Zambia yesterday. It was Mr Tambo's first visit to South Africa in 30 years

Superpowers press for end to war in Angola

From SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

THE United States and the Soviet Union, displaying a mutual interest in burying a foreign policy irritant born of Cold War tensions, launched a co-ordinated diplomatic effort this week to resolve Angola's civil war.

Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, met Jonas Savimbi, the leader of Angola's right-wing Unita rebels, for the first time on Tuesday. Their talks in Washington sent a strong signal to the left-wing Angolan government to call a truce with the guerrillas after 15 years of conflict. In a separate low-key meeting, James Baker, the American secretary of state, met the former Portuguese colony's foreign minister, Pedro de Castro Van-Dunem.

Their parallel push for a ceasefire was followed by a meeting between President Bush and Dr Savimbi at the White House yesterday. The flurry of diplomacy was widely seen as the best chance to date of breaking down the remaining distrust between Luanda and Unita, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, before a sixth round of peace talks in Portugal next year. Officials did not expect the meetings to produce any final agreements but to clarify the final bargaining positions on

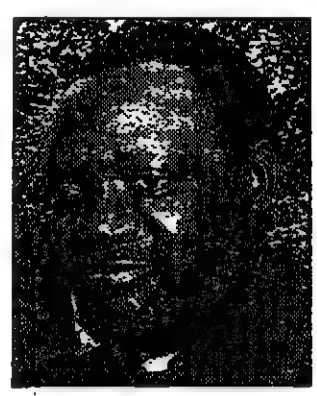
both sides. Angola, along with the Soviet-backed governments of Afghanistan, Nicaragua, Cambodia and Ethiopia, became one of the leading foreign policy flash-points between the superpowers during the 1970s. Moscow has spent billions of pounds propping up the ruling Marxist Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) since the Portuguese

Soviet Union withdrew some 1,000 military advisers and halted its aid.

Moscow and Washington have found a mutually acceptable moment at which to collaborate on ending the Angolan war. The Bush administration is keen to resolve Third World conflicts hindering steady improvement in Soviet-American relations, while the Kremlin is eager to end a financially draining involvement in overseas wars. Mr Shevardnadze also held talks on Tuesday with his Angolan counterpart at the Soviet embassy in Washington.

Mr Shevardnadze and Mr Baker, who met for two days this week in Houston, Texas, to discuss a strategic arms reduction treaty and other issues, said they drew up a peace plan for Angola, including a ceasefire, internationally observed elections and a halt to arms supplies to both sides.

Luanda has indicated its willingness to end the war, including a decision last weekend to move toward a multiparty system that would substantially fulfil Unita's conditions for a ceasefire. The MPLA congress has voted to reform the constitution in two stages, allowing opposition parties by April, pending parliamentary approval.



Savimbi: meetings with Bush and Shevardnadze

left in 1975 after independence. The United States has backed Unita with arms supplies, although Congress last year agreed to withhold half of America's estimated \$40 million (£20.5 million) in lethal aid if the MPLA took steps towards peace and the

Hunt for Ershad allies is stepped up

Dhaka - The caretaker government in Bangladesh yesterday sent the former deputy prime minister to Dhaka's central jail as it intensified a hunt for political allies of Hussain Ershad, ousted last week as president and placed under house arrest (Christopher Thomas writes).

Arrest warrants have been issued against 24 former ministers and associates of the toppled government, all of whom have gone into hiding. The acting administration is also intensifying a shake-up of senior bureaucratic positions filled by Ershad supporters. The chief of the state-controlled radio and television network has been replaced, along with the heads of the national airline and the nationalised banks.

The mayors of four cities have been removed, along with 61 other leading local officials.

Roh in Moscow

Moscow - President Roh Tae Woo began the first visit by a South Korean leader to the Soviet Union, highlighting the speed at which the nations' relationship has progressed as Cold War constraints recede. Mr Roh is looking to President Gorbachev to press North Korea to soften its stance towards Seoul.

Street credit

Singapore - Singapore will give tax rebates of up to £4,500 to new car owners who restrict driving to off-peak hours. Cars will carry special number plates and have free use of roads from 8pm to 7am on weekdays, from 3pm on Saturdays and all day on Sundays. (Reuters)

Famine threat

Millions are facing starvation in Mozambique as the country's economic conditions worsen, threatening the government's radical moves towards democratic reform, aid agency officials said in London. The problem has been exacerbated by an inadequate international response to appeals for food aid.

A dying art

Peking - China's Communist party branded what it called the "new wave" of modern art as dead, negative and anti-social, while an exhibition by young artists in the capital was prevented from opening. A lengthy commentary in the People's Daily was the latest attack on Western influences by China. (Reuters)

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Tokyo braces for gangland war

From JOE JOSEPH IN TOKYO

POLICE in Japan have traditionally turned a blind eye to underworld activities as long as mobsters did not settle their rivalries on the streets. But now that the yamaguchi-gumi gang is flexing its muscles, Tokyo is bracing itself for gangland war.

Japan's biggest crime syndicate is running out of new opportunities in its home base in Kobe, western Japan. It needs to expand and is threatening to move in on the capital, despite the fact that it is a rival gang's lucrative turf. Police fear that the gangland shoot-outs that now occur in other big cities may soon be seen in Tokyo.

It is known that top members of the yamaguchi-gumi were driven in luxury cars to a Yokohama restaurant a week ago to discuss strategy. Their expanding operations. Their 30,000 members countrywide have been placed on alert. Organised crime is a 1,500 billion-yen a year (£6 billion)

business in Japan. There are nearly 90,000 gang members in all, famous for their tattooed bodies, tightly permed hair, their flashy white suits and their big limousines. As the territory wars grow, both the police and the gangsters' victims are tiring of the saying that organised crime is at least better than disorganised crime.

The yamaguchi-gumi is not moving into Tokyo purely to hawk loans and prostitutes. It has just been revealed that the gang is also a huge investor on the Tokyo stock market, which, until this year's plunge, was more lucrative than gambling or drugs.

The finance ministry has this month ruled that anyone holding more than 5 per cent of a company's shares must declare their stake, common practice in Britain but a novelty in Japan. Now Japanese boardrooms are frantic to discover whether certain names are on their share

registers after it was discovered that the yamaguchi-gumi is the biggest shareholder in Kurabo, a large and respected Japanese textile company.

One senior member of the gang told the Yomiuri newspaper: "We can absorb smaller syndicates in local areas. But it's difficult to do so in Tokyo, where all the smaller syndicates are affiliated with larger organisations. So we have poured into Tokyo so that the yamaguchi-gumi can take root here by itself."

The syndicate's headquarters in Kobe gives between 5 and 10 million yen to gang members to set up new "business offices" in Tokyo. Being a gang member is legal in Japan and most hoods wear lapel badges stating their affiliation and exchange business cards that denote their rank. But in Tokyo the yamaguchi-gumi is trying to stay discreet. The seedcorn money covers start-up costs. Once the office is running it starts sending at

least 300,000 yen a month back to base.

The syndicate is also recruiting new members in Tokyo. "We approach people who hang out in bars," one member said. "We buy them a business suit or something, and say, 'You look great in that suit. Why don't you come and work with us?' They follow." Recruits earn a regular monthly salary of 150,000 to 200,000 yen, just as if they had been hired by Mitsubishi or Toyota.

But the gangs that control Tokyo are not happy about their rival's expansion plans. They are building a war chest to defend their patch. "We have raised more than 100 million yen," a member of the Tokyo-based sumiyoshi reigokai said. "We can keep fighting for at least six months with this money. We have one gun for every three men and we are sending our young members to the Philippines for shooting practice."

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Inflatable word rafts

Philip Howard

The public have an insatiable curiosity to know everything. Except what is worth knowing. Journalism, conscious of this, and having tradesman-like habits, supplies their demands. This is even more the case today than when Oscar was polishing his paradoxes. In a perfect world there would be no such separate register of English as journalism. The blots would be written in plain, everyday prose adjusted to the height of brow of their target readers: calm, judicious, impartial, clear, and erudite for *The Times*; shorter, snappier, demotic for the popt; but still the English used by the man in the Clapham omnibus, or rather, these days, I suppose, the man in the tailback on the M6. (That man in the Clapham omnibus, invented in 1857 as symbol of our average man in the street, is out of date, like almost all lawyers' jargon, and should be pensioned off.)

But we do not live in a perfect world. Surprise, surprise. And journalism as a separate register of English flourishes, with words and usages that nobody outside the inky trade would dream of using, even in a nightmare. We use this private language for various reasons: to save space in headlines, or merely as corroborative jargon, intended to give artistic verisimilitude to an otherwise bald and unconvincing narrative. Our journalism is designed to make our pieces about what is not worth knowing sound more important than they are, and the scribbles seem more intrepid heroes in belted raincoats and tilted fedoras than the disappointing reality.

Hence come all those clump-downs and crackdowns that infect our newspapers, but not the real world outside them. A former proprietor of *The Times* gave his hacks the good advice: "Never put on the table of Demos what you would not have on your own table." He then rather spoiled his advice by having notices around the office proclaiming they are only ten" to remind his staff of their public's mental age.

Take the simple little word "set". Its use in journalism is almost the opposite of its use in real life. In real life it is related to settle, and means something like fixed. *Jellies set. Cement sets.* Like so many short Anglo-Saxon words, set has evolved hundreds of different meanings, which occupy 25 pages in the *Oxford English Dictionary*. All the related meanings in ordinary English suggest that when something is set, it is finally put down, settled, and fixed - finito. Not in journalism, it isn't. If we were using ordinary English, and said that somebody or other was set to be the next prime minister, we should mean that everything had been fixed, soundings had been taken, the constituencies were nobbled, and it was all over but the standing ovation. But in journalism "set"

means not determined or fixed, but only likely or proposed. For example, "Lamont set to impose new tax" does not mean he is about to announce it, but that some press officer at the Treasury mentioned it as a remote possibility over a long lunch at the Garrick. In journalism "set" is not concrete, but a cottonwool filler. It is a useful word for headlines, because of its brevity. But it does not really say much. (Note the sloppy use of "really" in journalism to add a bit of oomph, and grab the reader's attention. Almost any sentence is strengthened by the removal of "really".) But it does not say much. "Lamont to impose new tax" is shorter and sharper without the "set". But it is also too definite for the meaning intended. When you see a "set" in a headline, it is a sign that the story underneath is speculation and guesswork rather than hard fact.

"Profile" is another term of journalism that is used in a different way in the trade outside. The woman in the M25 traffic jam, if she were to use such a pretentious word, would mean an outline or rough sketch. The roots of the word come to us through French from the Latin for spinning a thread. The point of a profile in the worlds of art, architecture, surveying, engineering, and private life is that it is an outline or contour, a fine-spun thread. That is not the impression we journalists mean to give by our use of "profile". We mean an in-depth (journalistic) and exclusive (lying) journalism biography. Chesterton defined journalism as saying "Lord Jones Dead" to people who never knew Lord Jones was alive. *Oui, cela était autrefois ainsi, mais nous avons changé tout cela.* We have refined journalism since Chesterton.

A profile these days consists of repeating from the cuttings more than anybody could possibly want to know about some paper celebrity. There is an example of its use in journalism by Dickens, when he was editing (not very well): "I have gone through your two profiles, and marked them in pencil here and there." *The New Yorker* first introduced a regular feature (journalistic) headed "Profiles" in 1925, and since then any paper worth its pence has had a profile, often as a puffed and prestigious feature. "He's the big guy who does the profiles in the Saturday edition." J.F. Kennedy (a bit of a pseud, like most good journalists) used the trendy word in the title of *Profiles of Courage*, which he wrote (or at any rate paid a ghost for), and which won a Pulitzer Prize. I think that profile is an inaccurate word, like so many in the slap-bang art of journalism. Portrait or sketch would be more accurate, but sound less authoritative. When reading newspapers, you should remember that you are reading a different language.

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

Above my head, Barkers teems. Three floorsful of Kensington shoppers glumly trudge the long aisles in line astern, their haggard faces peering endlessly to left and right with frantic Yuletide eyes. You know that Dante is in there, somewhere, desperately searching for a present for Beatrice.

And I am in the cellar, making, in my own little way, things worse. I am a tiny but glittering cog in the engine of Christmas commerce. I am a wisp of tinsel, prying to catch your wallet's eye. I am a winking plastic snowflake. I am at the epicentre of all the glass balls.

Look at me. I am wearing a black velvet battle-blouse, open to the throatless cleavage and ornamented by lovely big silver-madonnas set with twinkling blood-red garnets. Here I walk into the Gay Hussar, the diners would instantly think me its eponym. Not a few would choke on their plum soup.

I am not, however, promoting Hungarian restaurants. I am promoting British haute couture, which, it must be said, is growing more *basse* with each new outfit I am levered into. This particular jewelled folly is from Katherine Hamnett, and described as a bomber jacket for formal evenings; though were you to slip into it for, say, a night raid on Bremen, there is every possibility that the crew would drop you through the Lancaster's floor along with the first stick of incendiaries.

But I have slipped into it only for, God help me, a Christmas Fashion Feature (God will not of course help me, since did not send his only begotten son into the world that men might have natty dresswear. If he had, the three kings - who started all this - would have brought worsted, barathra and mohair). The Christmas Fashion Feature, timed to hit next week's shopping peak, is designed to demonstrate that even the dullest dog shall have his shimmering day, and to persuade women readers that a mere grand or two in Santa's ear will transform the thing in the beige cardigan into Rhet Butler.

For that is, more or less, the target age-group; which is why the photographer has convened, down here in Scribes elegant bar, not the lissom youths who normally strut this stuff down the world's catwalks, but three middle-aged citizens in whose context the word *Dandy* conjures up only the image of a busted cowboy desperately lining his enormous gut with yet another spade of cowheel pie. We are Milton Shulman, Ned Sherrin, and I, and when we stand in an open lift prohibited from the carriage of more than six, anyone still outside stares for a bit, and prudently decides to wait for the next one.

Yet here we are, poncing about in front of the fireplace, twirling champagne glasses, smirking, chortling, and fabricating, in our bows and sequins, some swish Regency kneep-up (to which we hope and pray Brummell had not been invited, lest he ask Franny who his three fat friends are).

It is Milton who looks the most fetching of all; even if what he is likely to fetch, in his floor-length mock-ocelot overcoat, is open to question. This does not stop him making the organisers an offer for the coat, which he then hurries out in, possibly to a job upstairs in Santa's Grotto as the Spirit of Bud Flanagan Past. Ned, too, departs. I alone am left, because, having priced me out of the Hamnett, they want me in something by Hardy Amies.

I look, however, as if I am in something by either Hardy or Amis; in this black evening smock three sizes too small, I could be a Wessex bumptkin fleeing retribution in a stolen cassock. I could be a drunken lecturer who has woken naked in an unidentifiable room and grabbed the first thing in the wardrobe; what, though, I could not be is Rhet Butler.

And, frankly, I do give a damn. I had hoped for transformation. More, I had hoped to ginger up my Christmas list; my life having hinted that the threatened cold snap might well call for the replacement of my brown woolly dressing-gown, I had hoped that a strategically placed Christmas Fashion Feature would change her course. Not confirm it.

Graham Mather sees the dismal spectre of reflation stalking the latest statistics

Don't panic on unemployment

Politicians tend to panic over unemployment. Yet the higher unemployment announced yesterday may not in itself harm the economy. Much worse would be a resumed political obsession with making the totals fall every month, which in the mid-Eighties led directly to serious reflationary errors. Instead of wringing hands ineffectually over the higher-than-expected 57,600 rise in recorded unemployment, we should look at new research which shows that employers throughout the country cannot find the skilled workers they need, and that the political nightmare of an underclass of permanently unemployed millions simply does not tally with the facts.

The first fact is that 62 per cent of manufacturing companies and 54 per cent of service-sector businesses surveyed by the British Chambers of Commerce in the third quarter of 1990 reported recruitment difficulties. The available pool of skilled labour was simply not adequate for them to fill jobs efficiently.

In some parts of the country, the figures are startling. Ninety per cent of manufacturers in East Anglia, 88 per cent in the east Midlands, and 84 per cent in the

northern Home Counties were experiencing recruitment problems. The figures suggest that, at present levels of unemployment, housing costs and pay differentials, the flow of skilled people towards jobs is insufficient.

The second factor concerns the jobless themselves. Detailed research confirms that most people who become unemployed quickly find new jobs. A survey by Bill Daniel of the Policy Studies Institute looked at 8,000 job-seekers. One third found new jobs within five weeks or so; half were back in work within about five months, and nearly two-thirds were employed within ten months.

Against this background, the traditional political response to rising unemployment - reflation - is meaningless. A reflationary boost, an artificial stimulus to demand, a premature reduction in interest rates - so long as interest rates alone control monetary growth - would all miss the target. Preoccupation with unemployment in the mid-Eighties, when it became a political victory symbol to have the total fall every month (as it did for 44 months up to April 1990), was a significant contributor to the over-expansion of the money supply which is now being

so painfully unravelled. Even in political terms it is far from clear that the headline unemployment figures carried as much weight with the electorate as many politicians imagined. Voters panicked less than politicians, and probably not through selfishness, but from a reasonably well informed sense of what local labour market conditions were actually like.

The real problems of Britain's labour market were summed up by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development earlier this year. In Britain "the persistence of important labour market rigidities is suggested by wide disparities in regional unemployment and continued high wage inflation compared with other member countries. Distortions in the housing market stemming from tax privileges and unduly tight restrictions on land development are an obstacle to greater regional mobility. Relatively low productivity levels may reflect weaknesses in the UK education and training systems."

The lesson is clear. Britain has an opportunity to put these problems right, quickly, before the consequences of membership of the European exchange rate mechanism and the OECD's factors

really do manifest themselves in an unemployment problem.

Britain's employers have failed to seize their chance to decentralise bargaining down not just to plant level, but to flexible individual contracts. The result is concealed unemployment, uncompetitive plants - and sudden dismissals of hundreds or thousands of workers. It is a clumsy and debilitating means of adjustment to changing competitive markets.

Employers should be blamed for this shortfall, rather than for reflecting market realities in pay settlements. Given rigid bargaining systems that still give too large a role to traditional union mechanisms that bargain for large groups of workers, inflation-driven wage-push follows as night follows day. Many large British companies seem to respond neither to bad times (the recession of the early Eighties) nor good times (the post-1985 growth) to individualise their bargaining. Nor do they respond to tax incentives. Take-up of the Treasury's Profit Related Pay initiative has been overwhelmingly among small businesses.

So what should be done? Four things. First, sort out the continuing doubts among employers about Britain's alphabet soup of

vocational training initiatives and qualifications. There will be little progress until employers are confident that a straightforward, meaningful system of skill training exists. Second, make speedy use of the forthcoming EC directive which will give every worker an entitlement to a clear job contract. Use it to encourage employers to think of their workers as individuals, and to end the rigidities which make it so difficult for Britain's labour markets to adjust. Third, redouble the many splendid but under-publicised schemes - job clubs, job interview guarantees, training guarantees - which help Britain's jobless gear themselves to employers' needs. And, importantly, address the OECD's housing and land market concerns with a liberalisation of planning laws, so that when growth returns, more house-priced inflation does not follow.

It is said that the cycle of unemployment-reflection-unemployment still affects the British economy. As the figures rise once more, only a calm, clear focus on the real solutions - a supply-side labour market package - can stop the dismal process beginning again. The author is general director of the Institute of Economic Affairs.

Fear in a cold Soviet climate feeds the impetus to exodus



Alan Philps weighs the possibility of mass emigration from a nation caught between break-up and a resurgent KGB

not before the summer. Soviet officials have fuelled alarmist scenarios by suggesting that up to three million of their compatriots may want to seek work in the European Community. Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary are setting up refugee offices, fearing that the destitute will drift across the border this winter in search of food and warmth. The Budapest government worries that Soviet troops, now pulling out, will take one look at their new accommodation in tents and railway wagons, and come straight back to their old billets as refugees.

The East European countries are most exposed to migration as Soviet citizens do not need visas to enter them. But estimates of millions on the march seem exaggerated unless civil war breaks out in the Soviet Union. There is simply not enough transport to move that number of people. Passports already take six weeks to get, and queues will get longer. Even if Ukrainians and Belorussians, penniless and without passports, skinned westwards and trampled down the border fences, they would not find the jobs they are hoping for. Poland is

experiencing its first taste of mass unemployment. Czechoslovakia is going down the same road, and Hungarians already have to do two jobs to make ends meet.

Adventurous Russians dream of working in the European Community. Every family would like to have a son or daughter earning hard currency to support those who stay behind. But most of these people will find they are knocking on a bolted door. Only those of Jewish or German origin, who are allowed to emigrate to Israel and Germany respectively, have an automatic entrée to the West. These groups, with Armenians and members of some Christian sects, make up 98 per cent of the more than 400,000 people expected to emigrate this year.

For the common mass of Soviet citizens, there is bitter irony in the fact that as the formal barriers to free travel are torn down, more insidious hurdles are being put up. Visa requirements by Western countries are the main bottleneck. But there are Soviet ones too: the price of the train ticket from Moscow to European capitals is

likely to rise up to tenfold, making it as expensive as air travel (which is booked months in advance). Getting the Soviet traveller's meagre foreign currency allowance of £180 takes weeks of queuing.

The word is filtering back to Moscow from Russians who came west looking for a slice of the rich man's cake that Europe does not need their labour or skills, apart from those of the cream of the academic and scientific community. This dispiriting message will serve to dampen the refugee exodus: so many know already that the only welcome that awaits them here is a cold shoulder.

But though the West may want to keep the Russians at home, it cannot afford to ignore their plight. Food aid, such as Washington's offer on Wednesday of up to \$1 billion of grain on subsidised credit, and the aid package the European community is expected to tie up at this week's Rome summit, are important. But these are a stopgap. No amount of charity from the West will feed the Soviet Union; it could not feed the 1.2 million people in Moscow alone who are listed as needy.

The ultimate solution to the

food problem is to restore value to the rouble and eventually make it fully convertible. But this prospect is receding: Mr Gorbachev has been forced to put off, perhaps indefinitely, the signing of a new union treaty, a project he hoped would recreate the Soviet Union as a voluntary union of republics. Without this political underpinning it is too early to talk of the essential economic reform.

There is little we can do now to kick-start the Soviet economy. Comparisons with post-war Germany and the Marshall Plan are misleading: Germany was rich in skills and ruled by an Allied military government with an interest in making it prosperous.

European leaders should beware of giving credits to Moscow which would encourage the KGB in what appears to be a new bout of cold-war rhetoric. Along with the armed forces and Communist party, the KGB is one of the few all-Union organisations which can hold the country together, and it still has a role to play. But if the Soviet Union is once again to be a country where foreigners are automatically suspect and contacts with people abroad are a matter of suspicion, then we have no business sending the European taxpayers' money in its direction. The author is a writer on Soviet and European affairs.

Constable's mixed doubles

As the Tate Gallery prepares for a comprehensive exhibition of John Constable landscapes next year, a slush at the V&A has found previously unknown paintings lurking under the skins of his mature works. Using X-ray and infra-red techniques on nearly 50 Constable canvases, restorer Sarah Cove has found a number of new pictures, and, as her work proceeds, art historians are hoping that important works will turn up.

Along with some incomplete images, Cove has already found a full painting beneath *Deathly Vale*, *Evening 1802*. "Between 1810 and 1812 he seems to have cut up a lot of larger canvases and painted over them," says Cove, who is carrying out the work for a Courtauld Institute PhD. "After 1810 his career really took off and he seems to have cut up some of his earlier work because he thought it was no good."

Art experts have long been intrigued by the disappearance of many of Constable's Lake District paintings, which were exhibited and catalogued in 1806. Cove's investigation raises the possibility that Constable obliterated the paintings from this period with new work.

"In recent years many new works by Constable have been discovered, and I think they will go on turning up," says Leslie Parris, deputy keeper of the British Collection at the Tate. "He is a particularly well documented painter, and there are many known works which have dis-

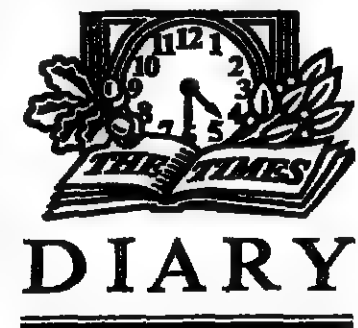
appeared." Students of Constable's work are hoping for a discovery on the scale of that at Washington's National Gallery, where an unknown and complete Constable was found under his sketch *The White Horse*.

Cove has, incidentally, found that Constable was just as quick as Turner to take advantage of new materials, contrary to the view of many experts. "He started using chrome yellows in 1816, which was only shortly after the material became available," says Cove. "He was just behind Turner in using the new materials, but until 1820 his use of the new colour was very tentative. After that, as we can see from his Hampstead paintings, he goes mad, splashing it all over the place."

Hansard rarely makes riveting bedtime reading. But parliamentary words of wisdom are now in such demand that John MacGregor, the Leader of the House, is to launch a compact disc version, readable on computer. The discs will be sold commercially, but no price has been fixed. Consumers will not get a daily diet, but will have to restrain themselves until the end of each parliamentary session.

Sunk at Henley

The Tory leadership contest has claimed another casualty. Tom Morrison, the agent in Michael Heseltine's Henley Conservative Association, has been told to find a new job. Morrison is regarded as having played a key role in the association's decision to issue a public and highly critical reply to the open letter their MP wrote just



before he challenged Mrs Thatcher for the party leadership.

Morrison, who has been in the post only since the end of September, has already started looking for another association in need of a full-time agent. One of those at Westminster who ran the Heseltine campaign says: "His position is untenable. He gave the constituency bad advice. His loyalty must be to the sitting member."

Morrison refuses to discuss the reason for his swift departure. "I have not discussed this with Michael Heseltine. I'm employed by Henley Conservative Association, not the MP," he says. And he denies that he gave the association bad advice. "The only error was the way the press interpreted the letter, as criticism of Mr Heseltine."

Before his move to Henley, Morrison worked in Putney, London, for David Mellor, one of John Major's campaign organisers. But he insists he was strictly neutral during the contest. "I had no view at all on whether Mrs Thatcher should stay on as a leader," he says. He must have been the only person in the country who did not.

Big build-up

The Prince of Wales may soon see one of his staunchest supporters endorsed as president of the Royal Institute of British Architects. Richard MacCormack has emerged as front-runner for the appointment, to be announced on Monday, after receiving 40 per cent support in a poll taken by *Architect's Journal*, while his two rivals, Jonathan Ball, the Riba council's own nominee, and Ray Cecil, scored 13 per cent and 24 per cent respectively.

Best known for designing buildings for students at Worcester College, Oxford and Trinity, Cam-

bridge, MacCormack has a penchant for traditional materials, pitched roofs and buildings on a domestic scale. "I think it is very unseemly for the profession to be in open dispute with the prince," he says. "If I were to win, I would hope to open up diplomatic negotiation with bodies such as the Victorian Society and SAVE. I believe in reintroducing tra-

ditional ideas without pastiche."

In marked contrast, Max Hutchinson, the outgoing president - known affectionately as Mad Max in the profession - differed with Prince Charles and wrote a critical reply to the prince's *Vision of Britain*.

With the prime minister insisting that he would listen to views from all wings of the party, his appearance there was clearly popular. Arthur Bell, chairman of the Scottish reform group, which had 20 members at the meeting, said: "It was a great success. He preached the message of unity and stressed that it would be a listening party. And we believed him."

Toe in the water

Perhaps taking to heart the seasonal message of peace and reconciliation, John Major was the surprise guest at the Christmas reception this week of the ultra-wet Tory Reform Group, a caucus never graced by his predecessor. Major spent nearly an hour socialising with the 200 MPs, party workers and academics, stayed longer than he had intended and was late for his next appointment. The visit was a carefully guarded secret: only a handful of senior figures in the pressure group were aware the new prime minister was to attend.

He spent most of the time-mixing with ordinary party workers, and had his ear bent on a number of issues, notably the poll tax. The group is pressing for the charge to be replaced by local income tax, something which Michael Heseltine has promised to consider. Not surprisingly, Major gave no definitive view on the issue.

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The Prevention of Accidents.



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PAYING FOR A MISTAKE

The announcement that dole queues are lengthening as fast as in the dark days of 1981 carries a message for John Major. In politics as in life, the ability to admit mistakes can be a sign of intelligence and strength. Since he became prime minister, Mr Major has had the courage to recognise mistakes in several fields, from poll tax to haemophilia. The rise in unemployment suggests that he may soon have to brace himself for a bigger confession: that the key policy decision he made during his period as Chancellor of the Exchequer was a mistake, at least in timing and execution.

The highly political decision to enter the European exchange-rate mechanism last October and at an exchange rate of DM2.95 to the pound looked like a mistake at the time. Today this can no longer be doubted, after the juxtaposition of yesterday's unemployment figures with the previous day's blustering about interest rates by Norman Lamont in his first Commons performance as Chancellor.

When Britain joined the exchange-rate mechanism two months ago, it was not altogether clear whether consumers would go on spending and borrowing or whether demand would finally succumb to high interest rates. Nor was it clear whether a prospective economic slowdown, not yet termed a recession by the experts, would be big enough to reduce inflationary wage settlements. It was not even clear whether the world economy was weakening in response to flagging confidence across the Atlantic or facing yet more inflationary overheating by booming European and Japanese investment demand.

Because it feared continued economic overheating, the government felt that it had to anchor sterling before it could risk cutting interest rates. This was the argument that swayed Margaret Thatcher to allow ERM membership the day before the Conservative party conference in Bournemouth. Now the imponderables have been resolved, by an economic decline, which is already severe and is still gaining momentum.

If last October's cut in interest rates was justified by domestic conditions, as Mr Major the Chancellor proudly insisted, then further cuts in rates are surely more than justified today. Yet Mr Major's successor in the job, Norman Lamont, appears to disagree. In the

course of a single brief speech reminiscent of Sir Geoffrey Howe in the early 1980s, Mr Lamont ruled out not only an interest rate cut, which the financial markets had pencilled in for this week, but every other anti-recessionary policy known to economics.

Mr Lamont dismissed as "siren voices" the many economists who have argued that sterling was overvalued. He ridiculed "the use of fiscal policy to give a short-lived stimulus to demand". Above all, he gave a hostage to fortune on the central issue of interest rates. There could be "no question of a reduction in interest rates which was not fully justified by sterling's position in the exchange-rate mechanism". The government would do "whatever was necessary" to keep sterling at its target level of DM2.95 in the ERM, he declared. And he added: "This will be the case however strong the pressure for a reduction in interest rates, based on other indicators." Fixed exchange rates are thus back with a vengeance. The Treasury is content. Free markets in currencies, from Iain Macleod to Mrs Thatcher, are but transient memories.

This is extremely depressing. Mr Lamont appears to be welcoming the periodic game of chicken between cabinet and foreign exchange markets which so dominated politics in the 1960s. The market analysts believe overwhelmingly that an exchange rate of DM2.95 is wholly unsustainable. The proof lies in the fact that they are pushing sterling down on the exchanges even when London offers them 14 per cent interest rates. Mr Lamont is proposing to push the British economy deep into recession merely to sustain an ERM parity haphazardly dictated by the timing of the last Tory party conference.

At best, these wars of political nerve are a costly, probably temporary, method of suppressing inflation. They distract attention from the supply-side causes of inflation, such as industrial monopolies, uneducated workers, protected agriculture and professional cartels. At worst they can become an economically debilitating self-deception on the part of Britain's mandarinate. They destroy output and jobs and do not fool the markets, because the markets know that July 9, 1992, is the last possible date for a general election.

SCRUTINY OF STRASBOURG

Of all the devices to promote European political union which are to be considered by the two inter-governmental conferences when they convene in Rome tomorrow, the proposed enhancement of the powers of the European parliament is the most eccentric.

A parliament traditionally performs at least three distinct functions, as legislature, as deliberative chamber and as scrutineer of the executive. In Britain, it is also the electoral college of that executive, severely curtailing parliament's effectiveness. So far national parliaments have been reluctant to delegate legislative functions to the European parliament.

However, a number of states are ready to concede greater legislative powers to the Strasbourg assembly. Even the treaty amendments proposed by the European Commission — by no means as radical as those supported by the Germans — envisage a parliament whose amendments to EC legislation could be rejected only by a majority of the Council of Ministers.

Such amendments may have wide scope. National parliaments would, thanks to majority voting, have no redress against amendments to which they objected. The legislative boot would be on Strasbourg's foot, enabling it to interfere in domestic matters.

Acceptance of these suggestions, on the curious premise that the faintly ridiculous European parliament must be given "more to do", would certainly weaken the national parliaments and governments in comparison with the Community's institutions. Whether it would increase democratic accountability for EC decisions is doubtful.

Most Europeans view their nationally-elected ministers as the natural conduit of democratic legitimacy. A distant legislature under the control of shifting coalitions of regional interest groups would hardly represent

a more sophisticated form of accountability. It would probably degenerate into mutual back-scratching for Brussels subsidies, as is already occurring. The most that can be said for direct elections to Strasbourg — rather than some other council of national parliaments — is that it entrenches the voting habit in such emerging European democracies as Portugal and Greece.

Some changes in parliamentary functions seemed unavoidable. Unless the British are ready to acquiesce in the gradual substitution of Strasbourg for Westminster, they should try to divert the energies of the Community's only directly-elected institution into functions which do not, from a constitutional point of view, alter the balance between the national and supra-national levels.

Already under Margaret Thatcher, the British had proposed giving Strasbourg a new brief to oversee the Community's budget. John Major intends to press the same case. In Rome this idea will meet with little opposition, but is unlikely to satisfy those who wish for more ambitious reform. As has often happened before, a sensible and thoroughly *communautaire* British proposal may not receive its due. Strasbourg's competence to exercise budgetary oversight — on which the prestige of the House of Commons used to depend — is taken for granted. Strasbourg must first prove that it can control the large, growing and notoriously corrupt budget of the Community, before being given extra responsibilities.

The principle of subsidiarity demands that a European parliament should not busy itself with matters which national lawgivers do better. To offend against that principle now, by doubling up the functions of Strasbourg and its national counterparts, would undermine the British aim, which is supported by Germany and the Commission, of writing subsidiarity into the EC treaties.

ANOTHER BALL GAME

Bigger goals equals more goals, equals better football. Stuart McCall, an Everton midfielder player, says it all. "I was where midfield players should be, on the edge of the box, hoping for a knock-down. But nine times out of ten my shots from that position fly over..." A proposal discussed yesterday by FIFA's executive committee, the world's governing body now meeting in Zurich, would make Mr McCall's exertions more fruitful by moving the goalposts further apart, or perhaps raising the crossbar.

The Times has urged this way of ending World Cup goal famines and the plague of excessively defensive play before. The FIFA committee has now ordered a review of the state of the sport, including changes in the rules to bring more goals. Traditionalists, who see the rules of football as sacrosanct as the Ten Commandments, wish the bigger goal idea an early death. But money talks. FIFA is dreaming in television megabucks. Games lasting beyond 90 minutes bring trouble with evening schedules.

FIFA, of course, has more on its mind than Mr McCall's weekly box-edge disappointments. FIFA is thinking of the next World Cup, in the almost virgin soccer territory of the United States. FIFA is asking itself what happens if you aim the average concentration span of American television viewers at 90 minutes of defensive passing interrupted by minutes of meaningless histrionics, with both bouts hoping to make the next round on a 0-0 score line and not too many yellow cards. FIFA score line and not too many yellow cards. FIFA is noting the unlikelihood that American TV, if it is covering the World Cup at all on one of the big three network channels, will disturb its

schedules for some unscheduled more-of-the-same in extra time. FIFA may even be wondering whether, if the only excitement of World Cup football is the shoot-out, to drop the preliminaries altogether and go straight to the point.

The present difficulty in scoring, for which better goalkeeping is partly to blame, shapes the whole style of play. One would be mistaken to suppose that football with bigger goals would be played exactly as now, simply with more of Mr McCall's high shots counting. A team one goal ahead could not afford, as it can now, to "shut the game down" by keeping the ball to itself. The only safe tactic would be to score, score, and score again, as in rugby. A midway 0-0 or 1-1 would warn both sides of maximum danger rather than invite a complacent ride through the second half.

None of this would be achieved by various other ideas FIFA has considered, such as cutting teams to ten (unless the missing man was the goalkeeper), or changes to the offside rule, or adding up each side's corner kicks if the scores are level at the end. If the point of counting corner kicks is that they could nearly be goals, why not increase the thrill by letting them turn into real goals more often?

FIFA hopes that association football can at last be made to appeal to ordinary Americans, a highly profitable market. The 1994 World Cup is about soccer evangelism. Too subtle scoring like the corner-kick proposal, and unexciting variations like ten men per side, are not going to win converts. Football spectators want a 90-minute dose of adrenalin, not a game of chess.

Impact on British economy of Gatt failure to agree

From Mr Patrick O'Brien

Sir, Anatole Kaletsky's article (December 10) on the common agricultural policy and Gatt negotiations is perfectly correct in its economic assessment, but far too optimistic in its political judgment that Europe will choose world free trade and reform the CAP.

The first reason that France and Germany might allow the Gatt negotiations to fail is precisely because land values in Europe would fall dramatically if the CAP were rationalised. The adjustment to the loss of so much value and fall in food prices would be difficult.

The second reason is that French and German industry will be built for two decades as they rebuild most of Eastern Europe's (possibly including Russia's) production facilities. German and French enterprises could become the largest and most powerful in the world. Whilst this is happening world trade is of minor importance, especially as the Third World cannot even pay its present debts.

Are the French and Germans going to create a pan-European corporate state whose industrial might will eventually dominate the world? The failure of the Gatt negotiations would favour such a plan by making it easier to exclude Japan and the USA from Eastern Europe. German food parcels to Russia might be the first step to hegemony.

If the Gatt negotiations fail

Britain should reassess its future.

Will the French and Germans allow our larger enterprises a place on the gravy train? Do we want to be part of a corporate state run by the Germans? We shall be but junior partners in Europe, far from Berlin the new centre, and suspect because of our special relationship with America. Our overseas trade will be badly damaged by the failure of Gatt and our past arrogance remembered by those in charge, i.e., the Germans.

Yours truly,
PAT O'BRIEN,
2 Evening Glade,
Gold Links Road,
Farnham, Dorset,
December 10.

From Mr Teddy Taylor, MP for Southend East (Conservative)

Sir, Why does *The Times* continue to refer (report, December 8) to the EC's proposal to the Gatt talks as being a 30 per cent cut in agricultural support? The alleged 30 per cent offer was largely bogus and the EC has been chiefly responsible for the unfortunate breakdown in the Gatt talks.

The EC claimed that half its 30 per cent "cut" had already been secured and so far as the remaining 15 per cent was concerned, the Council of Ministers made it clear that farmers would be fully compensated with other aids, grants or subsidies for any such reduction. The offer was little more than an insult to the nations represented at the Gatt talks.

For all matters except treaty revisions and enlargement, greater openness in the Council's decision-making process, and the statutory right of the parliament to approve the appointment of commissioners. We believe that this rally will show the level of popular support for political union throughout the Community and convince the European Council to seize this historic opportunity.

We hope that Mr Major will approach these negotiations with an open mind and judge the arguments on their merits. Such an attitude, more than anything else, will ensure that the British proposals are fully considered as a positive contribution to the debate rather than as an attempt to hinder progress towards integration.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH DYKES, Chairman,
JOHN PINDER (Vice-Chairman),
PETER LUFF (Director),
The European Movement,
1 Whitehall Place, SW1,
December 9.

Rome test for Major

From the Chairman of the European Movement and others

Sir, On Friday this week, John Major faces his first European Council meeting as prime minister. It will be a critical test of his political skill, for he will need simultaneously to advance Britain's position in the Community, accept the other member states' repeated commitment to monetary and political union and retain the full support of his party.

At the same time, we shall be leading a delegation of British members of the European Movement to Rome to join tens of thousands of our fellow European citizens at a rally calling for democratic reform of the Community's institutions to be a central part of the process of political union.

We seek co-decision-making powers for the European Parliament, along with the Council of Ministers; an extension of qualified majority voting in the Council

Lotteries dilemma

From Mr Mark Dunn

Sir, Your leading article of December 3, recommending a national lottery, will strike many of your readers as common sense. However, it omits to mention some important points.

First, lotteries, large and small, require careful government supervision if control is not to fall into the hands of undesirable elements. Public scrutiny of open books is not enough.

Secondly, in order to raise the significant sums to which Mr Peter Palumbo, Mr Denis Vaughan and many others look forward, it is essential that a number of small, narrowly directed lotteries are not countenanced. Small lotteries would be unable to compete with the European national lotteries, which are large and strictly limited in numbers.

Thirdly, small lotteries for charitable purposes are permitted under the current Lotteries Act, but they require a lot of "policing" by the Gaming Board, under Home Office supervision, and they raise insignificant funds by comparison with their large European counterparts.

The last royal commission on gambling, under the chairmanship of the late Lord Rothschild, produced an authoritative report in 1978 and recommended the establishment of a single "National Lottery for Good Causes". Regrettably, this recommendation has not been adopted by successive governments. It deserves support.

Yours etc,
MARK DUNN,
Widham, Stoughton,
Chichester,
West Sussex,
December 5.

From Mrs Francine Ridd
Sir, As a foreigner living in this country I find it very frustrating to have to pay the poll tax whilst being denied the right to vote in local elections.

After a certain period of residence in the UK such a right should, in my view, be granted to all foreign nationals.

Yours faithfully,
F. RIDD,
25 Parkside, NW7,
November 29.

Holy smoke

From Councillor John Whiteman

Sir, Contrary to the impression given by your leading article, "Holy smoke" (December 4), Northumberland County Council has not decided to disband the group of volunteer fire-fighters on Holy Island, though this must clearly remain a major option.

The only recommendation we considered was that the chief fire officer and I should meet the volunteer crew and the parish council to discuss how new government regulations could affect fire cover on the island. My suggestion that this meeting should be open to all and held on the island on December 20 was accepted.

Your leader failed to point out that it was the county council who originally organised the volunteer crew and built a garage on the island to house the fire engine.

The Government has made regulations which make it impossible for existing arrangements to be continued by a responsible public body. We shall examine all

Open University expansion costs

From the President of the Open University Students Association

Sir, It was a distressing experience for many Open University students to read in your paper (report, December 7) of our Vice-Chancellor's plans to raise fees above the rate of inflation. Of course the OU's waiting list will disappear if Dr Daniel carries out his promise, but at what cost?

Potential students will vote with their feet. Not only will they disappear but, for many, their chance of higher education will go with it. The linked idea of an expansion into the rest of Europe achieved by shutting the doors at home is abortive.

I cannot believe that OU students, having fought two major campaigns to defend our university from government cuts, will now find the problems nearer home. Access, equal opportunities and a chance for the many to have higher education must not be destroyed on the altar of market forces.

Please, Dr Daniel, your students ask you to think again, both for us and those who we hope will follow.

Yours sincerely,
ALICJA ZALEWSKA,
President,
The Open University
Students Association,
PO Box 397, Walton Hall,
Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire.

From Mr Jack Rendle

Sir, Your Higher Education Correspondent reports today that plans to double the number of Open University students, by setting up centres in Europe, are being formulated by the new Vice-Chancellor, and that fees will rise faster than the rate of inflation to finance this expansion. In addition the Vice-Chancellor has described the OU as "being better placed than any in the world to be the first truly global university".

For two main reasons I respectfully hope that he will have second thoughts about such developments:

1. The founders of the OU wished to promote equal opportunity by making university education in Britain open to all adults, irrespective of their backgrounds or resources. However, since the OU began its fees have steadily risen. As bursaries and scholarships are scarce, the OU has failed to attract many students from the lower income groups. Increasing fees beyond the rate of inflation will virtually exclude students from the lower income groups altogether, and the university will cease to be open.

2. The OU is financed directly by the government in order to increase the capacity of university education in this country. There is no good reason why it should finance a global university for the benefit of foreign students. Why should OU students be asked to pay higher fees in order to finance this speculative development?

Yours faithfully,
JACK RENDLE,
30 Bathwick Hill,
Bath, Avon,
December 7.

Road congestion

From Mr John B. Robinson

Sir, Recent announcements by the transport secretary concerning the proposals to increase the number of lanes on the M25 (report, December 4) provide a partial answer to motorway congestion. The overwhelming problem is not simply an insufficiency of lanes but the inefficient utilization of those lanes which already exist.

Any solution to congestion on urban motorways must address two related adverse conditions. The first, bunching in right-hand lanes and low utilization of left-hand lanes, is directly attributable to the prohibition of overtaking on the left. The second is the maximum speed limit, which is no longer relevant to modern vehicle design and safety requirements, and also causes bunching.

The Government should immediately consider either increasing the speed limit to 90 or introducing an amendment to the Road Traffic Acts to permit overtaking on the left and right on designated urban motorways.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN ROBINSON,
8 Deeply Close,
Burnley, Lancashire.

way; however, the fire had been out for some time before we saw them picking their way through the dunes with their torches.

This small incident makes a very serious point. Despite the fact that Lindisfarne is a small island, access to many parts of it is difficult and requires real local knowledge — knowledge which the island's volunteer fire-fighters have in abundance and which personnel airlifted from the mainland (as your leader suggests) would certainly not possess.

If Northumberland County Council have the best interests of this hardy island community at heart, serious consideration should be given to trying to get the Health and Safety Executive to make the island an exception with regard to the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health regulations.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT YOUNG,
University of Leicester,
Department of Archaeology,
University Road, Leicester,
December 6.

Beyond recall?

From Mrs Valerie Moyes

Sir, Mrs W. A. Higgins's letter (December 6) asks after how many years it is acceptable to stop sending Christmas cards to friends one is never likely to see again.

I keep the cards going for twice as long as the friendship lasted — e.g., if I knew people in one place for two years, I go on sending cards for four years afterwards.

Yours,
VALERIE MOYES,
33 Greenhills Park,
Bloxbam, nr Banbury,
Oxfordshire.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5846.

Time to go it alone

Would all the unhappy guests at their spouses' office parties stand up — and walk out?

WE HAVE reached that time of the year again — when everybody gives and goes to parties. And all over the country, twice as many people attend each function as are really wanted — the unwanted guests being the spouses or partners of the "real" invitees.

For some reason, it is assumed that invitations to any social gathering — even if it is to do with work — must include the current partner of each named guest.

Thus, standard invitations read "Jane and guest" — if the hosts know Jane is living with/married to somebody but have no idea whom, or "Jane and Tim" if they do know. The fact that the hosts may never have met "and guest" or Tim is beside the point. Consequently, for every 25 "real" people invited, 50 have to come.

Why can't hosts, when issuing invitations, just ask the people they want? In so many cases, the "and guests" will not enjoy the occasion anyway, as they know nobody there. Often, the spouse or partner will merely clog up the conversation, make the whole occasion more expensive, and prevent the hosts inviting many people they would really like.

We have all been to parties where we have been painfully stuck with the spouse of a friend or colleague with whom we feel we must make polite conversation.

There is the danger, of course, that the invitee will refuse to come unless the partner is included. Things have got so bad that if somebody we know is married, but persistently attends social

You haven't met Adrian?



gatherings alone, we tend to imagine something is wrong with the relationship.

People are not accessories, appendages, supports, but individuals. We are all capable of attending social functions on our own — or should be. Why drag somebody along who is going to get nothing out of the evening?

My advice to the numerous "and guests" now being invited to social gatherings out of misguided and outdated politeness is: never go to any function unless you are attending as somebody in your own right. If you do not want to go, have the confidence to refuse. We must liberate ourselves from this stifling, compulsory coupledom.

LIZ HODGKINSON
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Bringing the new men to book

The tug of war between machos and softies is dominating German dinner parties, talk shows and best-seller lists. Anne McElvoy reports

If you want to peer into the soul of a nation, take a look at its best-seller list. The two topics dominating conversation in these early post-German days, from the pub in darkest Bavaria to the most sophisticated of Berlin dinner parties, are unification and the new man. These are also the topics making the publishers' hearts beat faster, as they effortlessly quell all competition for the reading public's attention.

Television presenter Franz Alt's *Jesus, The First New Man* has topped the list for the best part of a year, ousted only by the chancellor, Helmut Kohl's, exegesis on the new Germany's relations with its neighbours. Nobody has yet published the *newer Man's* views on unification, but they cannot be long in coming: his views have been elicited on just about everything else.

Scarcely an evening passes without some broadcast enquiring whether the German male is a macho or a softy. The sudden heightening of the debate suggests that the argument is really an *Ersatz* for the one raging subliminally in the new Germany — is it gentle giant, or slumbering blond beast?

At number eight in the literary *Bundesliga* is *Leave Men Alone At Last*, and, snapping at its heels, *When Men Learn To Love*. Squawking in the second division is *Man: You're The Greatest*. There is, publishers cheerfully assure us, more of the same to come.

Uwe Schmidt, the editor of the publishing journal *Buchreport*, says the argument over whether the new German man is the stuff of the future or a mere changing, conceived in the alembic of authorial imagination, is the new preoccupation of the chattering classes. "People have had enough of feminist literature and lengthy discussions of the female state," he says. "First there was one book on the subject of being a modern male, which we took for a one-off, but suddenly there were dozens."

Seven years have passed since the Ina Deter Band topped the Teutonic charts with the plaintive cry of modern German womanhood: "Neue Männer Braucht das Land" ("New Men Are What This Country Needs"). Now there is a glut of them, as thick on the bookshelves and talk shows as they are thin on the ground in daily life. Herr Kohl verges on a caricature of the traditional German male: his advisers and friends are exclusively men, and he cheerfully admitted that his way of relaxing in the recent grueling election campaign was "a few beers and a good meal with old mates in a pub". There is always a woman in his cabinet, and she is always responsible for family affairs. His wife, Hannelore, is petite, smiling and mute.

Oskar Lafontaine, the van-

quished Social Democrat candidate, is, by contrast, a passionate and expert cook and devotes much time and attention to the interior design of his apartment. He is twice married and now has a peroxide career-woman girlfriend, who disdains the role of second lady. If Herr Lafontaine embodies Germany's modern, unburdened, free-thinking image, Herr Kohl represents the industrious conservatism which underpins it. When it came to the battle of the ballotbox rather than the image, he won hands down.

But the new man continues to march victorious into the temples of tradition. Herr Alt, a popular television presenter who doubles as a popular theologian, says he calls Jesus the first new man "because he did not repress the feminine side of his nature. That is why women 2,000 years ago were crazy about him," he says.

"If you read the Bible you see that he was constantly surrounded by women and regarded them as equals, as spiritual partners. This is the conduct I would aspire to as a modern new man."

Herr Alt is a silver-haired, bespectacled and authoritative figure, who bears the string of ologies after his name one needs to rise in the German media firmament. Nettled by the suggestion that his presentation of Jesus has more to do with publishing trends than theology, he says: "I am not interested in the fashionable tug of war between machos and softies. I represent talking about a new approach to theology, reclaiming religion from male domination, and rediscovering the feminine principle in Jesus' teachings."

He points to the success of his book as proof of a need in Germany "to re-evaluate religion from a woman's point of view, to feminise theology". If Joachim B rger hears one more word about a woman's point of view he will run amok in protest, he says. He has already done so in print with his polemic *Man, You're The Greatest*. He describes himself as "Germany's first chauvinist", and bemoans the marginalising of men in Germany by the women's movement.

For him, new manhood is nothing more than dinner-party chatter turned publishing coup. "Germany's men are under constant attack from women. Their instincts are attacked as repressive. The German male is not allowed to be true to his nature *qua* man." This he defines as a strong desire to dominate, motivated by sexual instinct rather than intellectual equality topped by the wish to "screw and not have to talk about it".

Herr B rger's argument has roused Germany's feminists to arms. After one particularly eventful talk show, in which he announced that the historical hour of

men's liberation had arrived and that he would "cleanse the putrid German air of the emancipation fig", most eminent women refuse to appear with him.

He sees the outbreak of new manhood as a feminine conspiracy to undermine men further. He has the commercial sense to present his arguments as daringly new. In fact, they are culled from the meanderings of the 19th century philosopher Schopenhauer, an early anti-feminist who described women as "wily parasites" who subvert men through marriage. "They want to break us down, make us more like them," rails Herr B rger.

Despite his claims to have nationwide support for his opposition to the new man, the genre is thriving in west Germany. On the streets of any city, young men in bright scarves and ponytails can be seen shepherding small children about with unveiled pride in their responsible parenting.

In former east Germany, however, they are less convinced by this newfangled role integration. Katrin Enke, a research psychology student in east Berlin, says the new man stops where the former border began. "The new man for us is an import: the chap you see in western adverts, young, dynamic and successful with a baby in his arms — everything fits neatly together, with no conflicts or inadequacies. In the east that is plain impossible: they are too worried about their jobs or their rents. The image is one of confident harmony, but in a society as insecure as this one, that is a long way off."

For now, the talk in the east is of salaries, the dream BMW, the first holiday in the Mediterranean. Some time in the early 21st century, no doubt, the catching-up will be complete and the new man will conquer the east — and its best-seller list.



Image of his fatherland: is the new German man, like his recently unified country, a gentle giant or a slumbering blond beast?

IS THE WRITING ON THE WALL FOR BRITISH MANHOOD?

IN THE UK the two best-selling non-fiction books at the moment are both, in their own way, sociological studies of the interaction between the sexes; but neither *The Trials of Life* nor *Viz V: The Spunky Parts* quite fit the German trend. Could the new man cross the Channel? Ion Trewin, the editorial director of Hodder & Stoughton, is doubtful: "Although 1992 is just around the corner, and we're even joined by a tunnel, in matters of taste we're a millennium apart. Best-sellers rarely cross borders. In fiction Umberto Eco does it; in non-fiction Martin Luther did it, but that's about all."

In the view of Tom Rosenthal, the chairman and managing director of Andre Deutsch, books on the new man and his "baby-friendly" sensitivity are more to the taste of our New World cousins. "Americans have the money and the leisure hours in which to gaze at their navels — it's not a British occupation, thank God."

According to Carmen Callil of Chatto & Windus, "British men have too much of a sense of irony to read such rubbish". And that, in the view of the literary agent Giles Gordon, includes the ones who know which end to pin the nappy. First a father a generation ago, Mr Gordon and his second wife are expecting a baby in February. "I'm going to be a million times more involved with the upbringing of this child, but the change has been subversive. We might be behaving more like new men in private, but we don't want an ideology. I won't be pleased if what I get for Christmas is *Son of Greer*. I don't want a book, I want paternity leave."

Publishers here have mixed feelings about leaping on the 'new man' bandwagon

Mr Gordon admits to reading magazine articles about the domesticated male. Judith Palmer, from the Women's Press, says: "The new man has had a lot of exposure in women's mags, on Radio 4's *Woman's Hour* and in the women's pages of newspapers. Men can buy a paper or a magazine, and they don't have to show what they're reading. Maybe they're too scared to buy a book on the subject."

Would anyone buy such a book? "Six hundred men might go against the grain and buy it," says the literary agent Ed Victor. "But not 6,000 or 60,000. Women might buy it to get a glimpse of Utopia." Frankly, he adds, they would be better off reading Margaret Atwood. "If I were 22 and having babies I might be interested in a book on how to create a new man," says the literary agent Carol Smith, although she adds that if she were 22 and having babies, she would not have any money to spend on books about new men.

Anne McDermid from the Curtis Brown literary agency,

'We don't want an ideology. I don't want a book, I want paternity leave'

however, thinks there is a market for "a well-written, well-produced male version of *The Female Eunuch* — bought by women to read out to their men". Most baby books are bought for, rather than by, prospective parents, and the same problem applies to the proposed new man-uals — if your man is a new man, he does not need to read one, and if he is not, then it will not make much difference. If he thinks he is but is not really, things are even worse — you might as well buy him *How to be a Marginally Better Lover, a Specially Written Guide for People who are Absolutely No Good in Bed At All*.

Only Virago has tried to publish any sort of new man book. Earlier this year it launched Lynne Segal's *Slow Motion: Changing Masculinities, Changing Men*. "There is a market for books aimed at thinking people," says Meryl Futerman, a Virago spokeswoman. "This book is selling very well, and both men and women are buying it. It's not an academic book, but nor is it really mainstream."

Mr Trewin believes it is well-nigh impossible to gauge a demand. "Ask people what they'd like to be invented and you're met with blank faces. Go ahead and invent the microwave, and they love it. It's quite possible that there might be thousands of prospective new men out there champing at the bit, waiting for such a book, but I wouldn't bet my shirt on it." Ms Callil would not bet so much as a button on it. "I don't think there's a market for books on the new man, and that's probably because they don't exist."

NICOLA MURPHY

The ultimate free supplement: MEN — a user's guide (you'll be mad if you miss it)



OUT NOW

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Watching their step

Christmas help for stepfamilies is at hand

CHRISTMAS can be hard for stepfamilies. Step-parents may, for example, find it a strain to entertain the children of a spouse's former marriage. The National Stepfamily Association's telephone counselling service faces a four-fold increase in demand over Christmas, says Brian Dimmock, a social work lecturer at Bath university and consultant to the service. "The phone doesn't stop from December 25," he says.

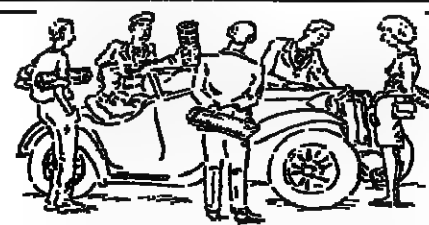
Erica De'Ath, a 47-year-old mother and stepmother who takes over as director of the association next month, says many calls are precipitated by problems which "ordinary" families experience at Christmas — "the difference is that one can become particularly irked by an outsider's habits".

Nearly 80 per cent of the calls are from stepmothers. Few stepchildren ring, possibly because they are not aware of the service. The association hopes to fill this gap shortly with a new magazine, *Stepadder*. A pilot sample has been sent to schools in the Midlands, the southwest and London.

JANE BIDDER

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GALLERIES: THE NETHERLANDS

First to walk on the wild side

John Russell Taylor
on the last Van Gogh
centenary show,
and an exhibition
that brings Dutch
paintings home

Since the Van Gogh centenary year was inaugurated so splendidly at the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam, it is fitting that it should go out the same way. In fact the current show, *Van Gogh and Modern Art* (1890-1914), is not quite the end for Amsterdam: like American viewers who already know how *Twin Peaks* ends, Britons can for once steal a march on the Dutch by seeing *The Age of Van Gogh* in Glasgow (reviewed in these columns on November 16), while Amsterdam has to wait until early next year to see it. In any case, it is appropriate that the two shows should be closely allied: the show currently in Glasgow explains illuminatingly where Van Gogh came from, while the show now in Amsterdam gives us an even more dazzling indication of where his art led.

When the "wild men" painters who cheerfully accepted the label "Fauve" burst upon the scene in France in the early 1900s, with their strong, violent, often quite unrealistic colours, nobody seemed to realise exactly where their antecedents lay. Similarly with the early German Expressionists of Die Brücke and the Blaue Reiter, doing much the same thing at the same time without any apparent possibility of cross-reference.

The answer, it is now clear, lies in Van Gogh: their common origin. It took about a decade for his effect to be felt, because while his influence is unmistakable on friends and contemporaries such as Gauguin, his obscurity in his own lifetime obviously militated against immediate wider acceptance of his ideas on art.

One good thing about *Van Gogh and Modern Art* is that it documents carefully the ways that influence did spread. The organisers have found out exactly which pictures by Van Gogh were shown where, and which ones later painters saw before they went and did likewise. When, for example, a group of paintings of the artist's bedroom in radiant colour are shown together, it is more than a coincidence. Chapter and verse are given for the availability of Van Gogh's Arles paintings at the time they were painting their own variations on it.

Some unexpected painters turn up in this context. Who would



One of the various pictures showing Van Gogh's bedroom in Arles, which has inspired artists like Kandinsky and Derain

have expected Max Ernst, remembered primarily as a Dadaist/Surrealist, to belong here? But a glance at his early "Landscape with Sun" of 1909 is enough to establish a strong link. The self-portrait of the Russo-German Alexei Jawlensky (of around 1904) almost looks more like a Van Gogh than the neighbouring Van Gogh portraits do. Could Jawlensky possibly have known Van Gogh's Paris self-portraits, which offer closer parallels than anything in the show? And yet there is little or no servile imitation.

As the show's organisers reasonably observe, in all probability Van Gogh himself would have been horrified at what later painters made of his mannerisms, appropriated frequently with no regard at all for the rationale behind them. But on the other hand, many of the most fruitful influences in art history have come from such misunderstandings and misapplications.

National temperament also has something to do with it. The French on the whole learned more from Van Gogh's relatively philo-

sophical paintings of the Arles period, which left them free to experiment with wayward colour within a balanced, almost classical framework. The Germans leaned rather towards the explosive, neurotic style of the final works from Saint-Rémy and Auvers, which accorded better with the torments of the Germanic soul and astutely gave early Expressionism a very different flavour from the decorative gaiety of the Fauves.

The Dutch, of a slightly later generation than is covered in *The Age of Van Gogh*, are more difficult to classify: painters like early Mondrian and his too-little-known fellows Stuyvers and Gestel achieved a fusion of intense emotion and blinding colour which is neither gaudy nor anguished.

Van Gogh is, in a sense, the most important Dutch painter that got away. If thoughts turn to the other paintings that got away, Great Dutch Paintings from America, the show at the Mauritshuis in the Hague, pro-

vides material enough to alarm and frustrate any true-born Dutchman. That is not, of course, its sole intention: politeness, at least, requires a warm salute to the generosity of the numerous museums and private collectors who have allowed these treasures to return, temporarily, to their place of birth. Nor is it entirely the fault of the mighty dollar. The prefatory material discusses a number of specifics: who the collectors were, who the dealers were who helped to create and then catered for the taste in Dutch painting, and the precise history of how some world-famous paintings not in the show made their way to America.

Curiously, the great Dutch scholar Bredius himself owned Vermeer's "Allegory of Faith", but considered its subject "unpleasant", and did not think it worth keeping in Holland. And there is a certain amount of inverted sour grapes: there is no irony in the observation that Armand Hammer's unapologetic Rembrandt "Juno" was not so long ago overlooked in auction and failed to reach its reserve,

but after its much-publicised acquisition for the Hammer Collection was suddenly recognised as one of Rembrandt's supreme masterpieces?

The probability is that Holland would still like to possess a number of the paintings in the show. But considering how many overwhelmingly famous Dutch Old Masters are still in Holland, there might also be something to be said for cultural interchange and the civilising influence of exported art on nations that import it.

The main practical thing to be said against this scattering of Dutch painting is that anyone wishing to see all 68 of the works in this show would normally have to travel far and wide in order to do so. But even that can be remedied, at least temporarily: it is what the great international loan shows like this are for.

Van Gogh and Modern Art, Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam (31 20 5705200) until Feb 18. *Great Dutch Paintings from America*, Mauritshuis, The Hague (31 70 3618888) until Jan 13.

A London first before the fall

ARTHUR Miller is putting his art where his mouth is. He has long professed a love of Britain and our theatres, and now that he has written a new play at long last, he has chosen London for its premiere. *The Ride Down Mount Morgan* is to be produced by Robert Fox in the West End next summer. Michael Blakemore, who directed the successful National Theatre production of Miller's *After the Fall* earlier this year, is to direct it.

Meanwhile, what next for Josette Simon, the actress who won a major award for her extraordinary performance as Marilyn Monroe in *After the Fall*? Plans are reportedly afoot to bring her to the West End as Eliza Doolittle in Shaw's *Pygmalion*.

Trial run

ANTHONY Sher is returning to the National Theatre for the first time in a decade, starring in Steven Berkoff's *The Trial*, opening on March 5 at the Lyttelton. Sher has a leading role as the bank clerk Joseph K in the play, which was adapted from Kafka and first staged in London in 1970. The new production marks the actor's return to the South Bank following a string of successes with the Royal Shakespeare Company. He last appeared at the National in Sam Shepard's *True West*.

Czech cash crisis

CZECHOSLOVAKIA is learning the lessons of capitalism the hard way, as the experience of Vaclav Marhouli shows. At only 30 years of age, Marhouli is the first man under 50 to head the state-owned Barrandov Studios in two decades. His first action, however, has been to deliver redundancy notices to 2,100 of the studio's employees. The studios, which were the first home to such Czech directors as Milos Forman and Jiri Menzel, are facing their worst financial crisis ever. Marhouli is determined to boost the studios' profitability by attracting more foreign productions. Steven Soderbergh (*Sex, Lies and Videotape*) is shooting *Kafka* there, while Andrew Lloyd Webber's

screen version of *Phantom of the Opera* is almost certain to be filmed there next June.

Sitting pretty

THE latest in a series of portraits of famous Scots will be unveiled today at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery. The venerable historian and chronicler of the crusades, Sir Steven Runciman, has sat for the Glaswegian artist, Stephen Conroy. Conroy's burlesqued, Edwardian-looking figure groups were a succès fou when exhibited at the Marlborough Gallery last year, but whether his glossy style does justice to the subject's remarkable Maughamsque features remains to be seen. Earlier commissions - a bland Muriel Spark by Alexander Moffat and an almost invisible Jo Grimond by Patrick Heron among them - present weak competition.

Well-seasoned fare

FOLLOWING its successful musical extravaganza, "Music for Life", last May, the Aids charity Crusaid is about to tap the seasonal spirit with a rather more modest event, at the Purcell Room tomorrow, called "A Christmas Box for Crusaid". The music theatre group, Wordplay, promises a "sackful of seasonal delights", with words by Laurie Lee, John Betjeman, Thomas Hardy and John Osborne, along with songs by composers as diverse as Vaughan Williams and Tom Lehrer. The artists include actors Gordon Duhie and Susan Edmonstone, pianists Stephen Coombe and Geoffrey Parsons, and singers Pamela Kuhn, Janine Robuck, Mark Padmore and Stephen Roberts.

Last chance...

THE eponymous heroine of *Elta Jenks* follows the route of the Hollywood hopefuls of 70 years ago and arrives in Los Angeles keen for fame and fortune. But this is 1990 and the way to wealth lies through porno films and takes in murder. At the Royal Court Theatre, Miranda Richardson gives Marlene Meyer the rage of a frustrated thespian who is never going to win an Oscar, until they bring in a category for snuff movies. The play ends on Monday (071-730 1745).



FEW caricaturists have the ability to produce recognisable exaggerations and at the same time retain a feeling of affection for their subjects. Emmett (aka John Musgrave-Wood), who penned the above caricature of Margaret Rutherford as Lady Wishfort in *The Way of the World*, is one of that small band. His theatrical caricatures enlivened the pages of *Tatler* and *Bytander* regularly between 1948 and 1954. Along with his work of that period, a current exhibition shows the more straightforward visual gags of Alex Graham, which appeared in *Tatler* between 1946 and 1953. He now supplies the *Daily Mail* with the Fred Basset saga. Both caricaturists' works are on show until December 23 at Frost and Reed, 116 Old Bond Street, London W1.

GALLERIES: SCOTLAND



Artist with something to say: Howard Hodgkin with his 1984-87 work, *Autumn Lake*

Small works of wisdom

Andrew Gibbon
Williams reviews
the intellectually
stimulating abstracts
of Howard Hodgkin

As if to subvert the dreich, spirit-sucking gloom of winter in the Athens of the North, the British Council's Howard Hodgkin exhibition - a *festa* of brilliant colour - has arrived at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art. The spacious ground floor of the gallery has been almost entirely assigned to the artist, and a good third of the permanent collection evicted. It was a generous curatorial decision, but one which, in the event, has been fully justified: Hodgkin's work needs plenty of room to breathe and be appreciated *en masse*.

After the gigantic dimensions, ostentatious rhetoric and trivial ambition of so much post-war painting, Hodgkin's concentrated visual language, and the small scale he favours, come as a shock. Here is an artist with something significant to say and, more impressively, one who struggles until he has determined the most cogent form in which to express it. He, too - like that growing army of woolly-minded, profligate dabblers - is contributing towards Windsor and Newton's profits, but one senses that he applies his pigment upon which the structure of all his pictures depends. The long gestation period of each work returns dividends in intensity.

Hodgkin tackles only one subject and that is the only subject any artist worth his salt should be bothered with: his own experience. Yet this is not exclusively - or even primarily - the plethora of

painting. Rather, it is a recollection of the most transient of emotions in tranquillity. The meaningful titles - "Waking in Naples", "Haven't We Met?" - amplify his intent; a more difficult thing for which to invent metaphors in colour and shape is hard to imagine.

If this skimpy analysis of the artist's motivation sounds off-puttingly cerebral, then the real impact of the pictures themselves (alas, Hodgkin's work lends itself less easily to description than most) would allay any fear that Hodgkin is, first and foremost, an intellectually demanding painter. His pictures are approachable, and almost insistently alluring. Colour is his chief card and the deft way he plays it proves that he has as sure a grasp of the mood-evoking potential of chromatic juxtapositions as any artist in England: great slabs of primaries reverberate off the picture plane like plangent chords from a full orchestra in "Goodbye to the Bay of Naples".

In this area of formal expertise, Hodgkin is hard to fault. But when it comes to the relationship between his compositional solutions

them, then he is occasionally on shakier ground. In a picture (one hesitates to call it a portrait) of the gastronome Paul Levy, a substantial border of improvised splodges is a rare descent into irrelevant decoration which short-circuits the latent power of the image.

The superficial attractiveness of Hodgkin certainly does not derive from any serious decorative impulse. Even when he is performing more succinctly and effectively, however, the superficial abstract look of his pictures disguises the acute subjectivity which is their essence. Sometimes it is more "readable" than others. In two pictures from the early Eighties, for example, "Sleeping Figure" and "Waking up in Naples", what look like very urgent, single brushstrokes clearly indicate silhouettes of nudes, evidence of an eroticism which informs much of the work.

Howard Hodgkin has, of course, been embraced over the past decade by our artistic establishment. A part trustee of both the Tate and National Galleries, our 1984 representative at the Venice Biennale and winner of the Turner Prize a year later, he has certainly not been overlooked. But even our honoured prophets need periodic reappraisal. Five years have passed since Hodgkin's last major retrospective at the Whitechapel; the evidence of his activity in the interim, on show in Edinburgh, further augments his stature.

Howard Hodgkin 1975-1989 is on show at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh (022 262 1000). Thursday to Sunday, 10.00-5.00.

RECORDS: JAZZ AND ROCK

Organised soul

Barbara Dennerlein: Hot Stuff (Enya 6050)
Johnny Hodges/Wild Bill Davis: In A Mellow Tone (RCA/Eurodisc NOB2305)
Jimmy Smith: Cool Blues (Blue Note CD7-84441)

THREE cheers for the return of the Hammond organ. Despised for most of its short life, the instrument was once thought to have been killed off by the arrival of modern electronic keyboards. In fact, thanks in part to the revival of interest in soul jazz, the organ is still making its inimitable noise on countless dancefloors.

Most of the leading exponents belong to America's "grit 'n' gravy" school. The German player Barbara Dennerlein is carving out her own niche. While steeped in the elements of rhythm and blues, she uses the heavy organ phrases as the platform for improvisation that extends beyond the call-and-response routines.

The spontaneity of her last album, *Straight Ahead*, took everyone by surprise. On *Hot Stuff* she has refined the formula, staying with a quartet but replacing the trombone of Ray Anderson with Andy Sheppard's saxophone. Besides taking her back to the archetypal soul jazz lineup, the adjustment gives Dennerlein a hugely expanded canvas. Anderson, for all his virtuosity, cannot match a reed player in full flow. Another Briton, Mark Mondesir, is drafted in on the drums, while Mitch Watkins remains in place on guitar, twisting rock figures into fresh shapes.

The rough-hewn texture of the organ is a sure safeguard against blandness. One of the few occasions where Dennerlein loses her way is the cover version of "Seven Steps To Heaven". The Hammond's elephantine progress through the theme makes for painful listening.

Traditionalists will undoubtedly detect the whole project. They can at least retreat into the arms of Johnny Hodges and the organ pioneer Wild Bill Davis. A re-issue of a 1966 sextet date in Atlantic City, the album offers warmth, reassurance and absolutely no surprises. If he was sometimes content to recycle past glories towards the end of his tenure with Ellington, Hodges was an unfailingly eloquent player in small groups. This album is no exception, though it has to be said that there is a wider range of material on last year's *Compact Jazz* compilation from Verve.

The best music is often the simplest. Jimmy Smith gives a

Small's Paradise club in Harlem in 1958. Smith had already made a recording there the previous year. This second date has only just emerged from the vaults. The bludgeoning organ technique has its detractors, of course, but there is no denying the vibrancy of Smith in full swing. The late Art Blakey - a special guest on the night - gives the saxophonists Lou Donaldson and Tina Brooks all the encouragement they need.

CLIVE DAVIS

Malcolm McLaren: Round the Outside! Round the Outside! (Virgin CDV2646)
Enigma: MCXXX(GA.D.) (Virgin CDVH1)

WHAT is a man of ideas to do when the ideas run out? In the case of Malcolm McLaren, notorious Svengali, once manager of the Sex Pistols and now a recording artist in his own right, the last resort is recycling. As ever, his involvement in the project is ambiguous; Malcolm McLaren Presents *The World Famous Supreme Team* is the full blown credit and that, in itself, takes some explaining.

The original Team was first heard by McLaren when it hosted rap and request shows on a small public access radio station in New Jersey. Drafted in for McLaren's *Duck Rock* album in 1983, TWFSI achieved world fame briefly and then disappeared. Now the name has been resurrected, albeit with new personnel.

Although *Duck Rock* caught the public imagination to some degree, McLaren's later obsessions have failed to ignite much interest. *Round the Outside!* has opera with drum machines, Shakespeare with rap (and drum machines) and Garcia Lorca with drum machines. Additionally, it has "Buffalo Gals", McLaren's first bit single, remixed to detrimental effect; the abiding impression is of a short record revolving for all eternity.

Opera also appears fleetingly on Enigma's Euro-ambient dance album (the categories become more convoluted with each passing month), as does Gregorian chant, the inevitable digital samples of Japanese flutes and the shuffling drum-machine rhythm frequently described, for shorthand reference, as the Soul II Soul beat. Unfortunately, the soul potential of this bizarre mixture, the novelty is exhausted within a few minutes, leaving little material with which to fill the remaining tracks.

The best music is often the simplest. Jimmy Smith gives a



I'd finally found someone
with my own
sophisticated taste...

NOLLY PRAT

SPECIAL 1990 EDITION

Nolly Prat is Pampers' definite! Before lunch, before dinner: the delicious, dry, rounded, taste of Nolly Prat cleanses the palate and stimulates the appetite like no other aperitif. Fine wines matured in oak for 3 years in the sun-drenched South of France, enriched with a secret blend of more than 40 herbs, produce the unique taste. Experience Nolly Prat today - simply chilled or with ice. And remember when you order, the name does rhyme with cat.

FRENCH, DRY AND MISUNDERSTOOD

Delightfully messing about

THEATRE

The Wind in the Willows

Olivier

DO NOT worry if, with me, you tend to resist carol-singing mites dressed as field-mice, or grown actors with bobbles and long ears popping brightly from holes. Terminal cuteness did not set in last night at the National, thanks partly to Nicholas Hytner's relaxed, humorous cast and partly to an adaptation by Alan Bennett that, as it happens, remains remarkably faithful. Kenneth Cranham's original. Believe it or not, there is even a curiously version of the chapter I always skipped as a boy, Rat and Mole's encounter with the Great God Pan.

Moreover, Hytner and his designer, Mark Thompson, have made ample and more inventive use of the great Olivier stage than anyone so far. At its centre is what looks like a slice of golf course, surrounded by a river, a road, a railway track. Round and round goes this little island, allowing a boat, Toad's yellow caravan and red car, and even a splendid steam loco to make their entrances. Then up it rises, its innards becoming the fake ship's galley which Rat makes his home or the bookshop Badger quietly inhabits.

Nor is that all. Suddenly silver trees glide down from the flies, to form a ghostly wood for Mole to get lost in. A huge wall looms at the back, a plausible prison for the



Felicious roadhog: Griff Rhys Jones as Toad in the National Theatre's *The Wind in the Willows*

felicious roadhog Toad. Indeed, so impressive is the scenery that it becomes artistically dangerous. Surely it must distract the audience from the story?

That does not happen. On the contrary, the evening never loses either its narrative clarity or, thanks to the menacing presence of mafiosi weasels in brown overcoats and co-represented shoes, its dramatic tension. Bennett is even able to inject the odd sly joke for the adults without bewildering the tots. For instance, Toad hoodwinks Rat into thinking him ill by repeating the syphilitic Oswald's cry from *Ghosts*, "give me the

sun". You could think then a patent medicine, and still get the point.

Perhaps there is less laughter than might have been predicted, given that Griff Rhys Jones plays Toad. I hope he will not mind me saying he looks the part, with his big, floppy face and twisted post, as well as his green-check plus-fours. He preens and gurgles pretty satisfactorily, too. But Toad is as majestic a braggart as literature offers. Parodies and Pistol not excluded. Jones has not yet the size and challenge the part needs.

Never mind. Richard Briers is a fine Rat, with his yachtsman's

bisness and Terry-Thomas drawl, not to mention the tail he embarrassingly hides in a pocket. David Bamber, a flustered Macphee Mole, and Kenneth Bryant, every-one's gruff, kindly uncle as Badger, notwithstanding a hair-do better suited to a punk zebra. Add Terence Rigby as a horse that might be Bennett's parody of one of the sad, seedy humans who haunt his own drama - "I don't mind sunrise or sunset, it's what's in between that depresses me" - and the result is a delightful evening, a treat for anyone.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

THEATRE

Taking Steps/Callisto 5

Stephen Joseph, Scarborough

ALAN Ayckbourn is said to have been less than thrilled by the London staging of *Taking Steps* ten years ago. In those days his plays were handed over to other directors for the West End, presumably on the patronising grounds that his own productions might pass in Scarborough but hardly in Shaftesbury Avenue. It would be interesting to learn how many of his plays he feels were significantly improved by the transfer from the intimacy of the Scarborough staging in the round and by the replacement of the original players by starker casts.

His own antennae as a director are so sensitive, his own standing of his characters (and how to encourage actors how to present them) so acute, that he has become the very rare exception to the rule that an author should never be

allowed within a hundred miles of his own plays.

For the revival he has long promised himself, Ayckbourn has varied his usual practice and brought in a star, in the meaty person of Michael Gambon. He plays the wealthy bucket merchant whose house, reputedly haunted, is the scene of three levels of cross purposes, in sitting room, master bedroom and attic. With typical Ayckbourn ingenuity, all three rooms are represented on the same ground plan, so that Roland Crabbe (Gambon) can be down stairs pressing tumblers of neat scotch on Tristram, his timorous young solicitor (Adam Godley) while his wife (Elizabeth Bell) strides between them but remains unnoticed, because she is actually on the floor above.

Meanwhile, in the attic, the ex-fiancée (Claire Skinner) of Mrs Crabbe's brother, bored out of his mind with his dreary plans for their future, is also peering within inches of the others. But if one of them does hear her - and it is usually Tristram, nervously listening for ghosts - he will look

up at his ceiling and not at her noisy feet a floor or two away through right beside his own.

There is rather less of this non-confrontational humour than might be expected. No one yells for somebody standing only a hair's-breadth away. So in developing further the double dinner-table idea of *How the Other Half Loves*, Ayckbourn seems more intent on seeing how boldly he can knead the dough of conventional staging and still take his audience triumphantly, creating also a depth of plotting impossible to achieve so economically any other way.

The comedy is not an Ayckbourn *piece* *noir*, but it contains a heartfelt declaration that we should not let other people plan our lives for their benefit. This comes in a charmingly unexpected love-scene between the tongue-tied ex-fiancée and the hitherto tongue-tied Tristram, a role to which Godley gives beautifully genuine emotions of politeness, panic and moral fervour.

The dental difficulties that aff-

lict Gambon's immensely civil Crabbe, unembarrassed deal with by regular labial upheaval, is just the sort of detail that makes an Ayckbourn character recognisable, comic and endearing.

Such details are not frequent enough in his new children's play, *Callisto 5*, set on a space station on a moon of Jupiter where 17-year-old Jim (Simon Cox) lives alone with a robot baby-sitter - Nigel Anthony in lead-weighted gumboots and brille-pad hair. Jim's parents are briefly seen on the video screen talking about the importance of caring, but they have left him for eight years with a robot programmed to treat him as an infant. This is some comedy in this but too much. The children listened carefully and laughed when they could, but the favourite moments came when Jim played with a silver soft-ball that whizzed when thrown in the air and squawked when bounced. Unfortunately Jim tires of the game before the audience does and nothing else was as much fun.

JEREMY KINGSTON

DANCE

La Bayadere

Covent Garden

AT THE Royal Ballet's first performance of one scene from *La Bayadere* back in 1963, Rudolf Nureyev almost came a cropper in his solo, so Stuart Cassidy need not take it too hard that he stumbled at almost the same point during his debut as Solor on Wednesday. Apart from that, things went well for him: confident acting, zestful dancing, and a good rapport with Lesley Collier's Nikiya. His big solo could gain from a little more weight in the middle section to contrast with the flights of aerial steps which begin and end it, but it would have seemed incredible a quarter century ago that the Royal's dancers would come to take his role so heroically in his stride.

The supple weight as well as soaring strength were present in

DANCE

How to Love a Man

Who Doesn't Love Me

The Place

THE little man in the oversized raincoat gave me a fright screaming behind me like that before running on to the stage. But then this was moderately avant-garde theatre, the screaming and running followed by more of the same, as well as stamping, stomping, jumping, whimpering, grabbing, slapping and moaning.

Edward Lam, *The Place's* artist-in-residence, comes from Hong Kong. *How to Love a Man Who Doesn't Love Me* is a new production of a piece he did there, his second work to be shown in London. The title refers predominantly to male self-alienation. Man rejects his emotional inner self so that he can conform to a socially acceptable archetype.

In that light, the all-male cast of

12 makes sense. The piece also looks wonderfully minimal in movement, sound and decor, the monochrome figures arranged in stark outline against the white walls and panels of the set.

Lam's vocabulary is more choreographed movement than dance. He proceeds through images of often, in which emotional scenes, sinuously separated into strands and put under a microscope. Eventually it clicks that the strange character who has been standing motionless and emotionless like a mannequin must be a metaphor for the others. By the end we witness the birth of the new man: the mannequin character at last moves. He collects the outer clothing which the others discard to emerge like butterflies from their chrysalises.

The nature of the piece, however, means that the emotions are never engaged. These performers, as emotionally stunted characters, have to be grey and anonymous.

NADINE MEISNER

NEW RELEASES

HEAVY PETTING: An amusing cocktail of clips from American sex comedies of the 1950s, New Screenex as a lampoon on co-eds. Fred Ward as a steady cop; Jennifer Jason Leigh as a call-girl caught in the traps. Produced by Jonathan Demme. Cannon Pictures (071-480 089).

MAINE BLUES (19): Quirky little hooking newbies. Though the off-beat characters are a delight, New Screenex as a lampoon on co-eds. Fred Ward as a steady cop; Jennifer Jason Leigh as a call-girl caught in the traps. Produced by Jonathan Demme. Cannon Pictures (071-480 089).

THE REVENGE OF STACY PART 2 (U): A minor sequel to the first. Visually spectacular, but the plot is a jumble and an unrelatable credit card. Jonathan Demme, spots some of the fun. Cannon Pictures (071-480 089).

THREE SISTERS (19): Cheeky update on the Russian classic. The off-beat characters are a delight, New Screenex as a lampoon on co-eds. Fred Ward as a steady cop; Jennifer Jason Leigh as a call-girl caught in the traps. Produced by Jonathan Demme. Cannon Pictures (071-480 089).

BLUE STEEL (19): Tough, black-and-white police thriller with a feminist slant. Directed by Kathryn Bigelow. Cannon Pictures (071-480 089).

THE COMFORT OF STRANGERS (19): A minor sequel to the first. Visually spectacular, but the plot is a jumble and an unrelatable credit card. Jonathan Demme, spots some of the fun. Cannon Pictures (071-480 089).

DEATH WARRANT (19): Action video. Jonathan Demme, spots some of the fun. Cannon Pictures (071-480 089).

THE HOT SPOT (19): Playing musical chairs and duplicity in a New Year's Eve, Jonathan Demme, spots some of the fun. Cannon Pictures (071-480 089).

THE LITTLE NERD (19): A minor sequel to the first. Visually spectacular, but the plot is a jumble and an unrelatable credit card. Jonathan Demme, spots some of the fun. Cannon Pictures (071-480 089).

THE BOY NEXT DOOR (19): A minor sequel to the first. Visually spectacular, but the plot is a jumble and an unrelatable credit card. Jonathan Demme, spots some of the fun. Cannon Pictures (071-480 089).

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CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated) with the symbol (L) on release across the country.

students probing the boundaries between death and life. Director: Jim Jarmusch. Cannon: Chelsea (071-332 5036).

THE MUSIC TEACHER (PG): Belgian tale of a retired opera singer (Jean-Pierre L  aud) who returns to his home town to teach music. Directed by Georges Clooney. Cannon: Chelsea (071-332 5036).

MY BLUE HEAVEN (PG): Steve Martin as an incorrigible animal placed under the wing of a self-named FBI agent (Rick Moranis). Over-the-top comedy. Warner (071-438 0791).

THE SHELTERING SKY (19): A chilling novel (by Paul Bowles) filmed with a warning away by Bernardo Bertolucci. Directed by Bernardo Bertolucci. Cannon: Chelsea (071-332 5036).

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES (PG): Noisy, charming feature-length adventure for the new pop culture. Full of martial arts mayhem, shogun-style production values. Cannon: Chelsea (071-332 5036).

THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS (PG): A classic tale of a frontier hero (Daniel Day-Lewis) who saves a Native American village from a British attack. Directed by Michael Mann. Cannon: Chelsea (071-332 5036).

THE GYPSIES (19): A noisy account of Yugoslav gypsy youngsters conscripted into an army of thieves. Directed by Zvezdan Jovanovik. Cannon: Chelsea (071-332 5036).

WARRIORS (19): A noisy account of a group of young men who become warriors. Directed by Michael Mann. Cannon: Chelsea (071-332 5036).

A WORLD WITHOUT FEAR (19): A noisy account of a group of young men who become warriors. Directed by Michael Mann. Cannon: Chelsea (071-332 5036).

THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW: A noisy account of a group of young men who become warriors. Directed by Michael Mann. Cannon: Chelsea (071-332 5036).

SCENES FROM A MARRIAGE: A noisy account of a group of young men who become warriors. Directed by Michael Mann. Cannon: Chelsea (071-332 5036).

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THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current theatre in London

■ Full, ■ Half, ■ Empty

■ Seats at all prices

■ Seats at all prices

■ Seats at all prices

■ Seats at all prices

■ Seats at all prices

■ Seats at all prices

■ Seats at all prices

■ Seats at all prices

■ Seats at all prices

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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 20

HARRINGTONS

(c) More correctly *Harringtons*, as called from John, 1st Baron Harrington (d. 1633), to whom James I granted a patent (1613) for making these farthing coins of brass. The patent was forfeited in 1643, having finally passed to Lord Malvern.

PEARL COAST

(b) The Venetian coast from Cumana to Trinidad, so named by the early Spanish explorers, because of the large pearl fisheries.

THE CHRISTIAN CICERO

(c) Lucius Coelius Lactantius, a Christian father (c. 260-340), tutor to Constantine's son Crispus. His most important surviving work is *Divine Institutes*, which aims to convert Christianity to men of letters, and sets out in Latin for the first time a systematic account of the Christian attitude to life.

HUMANITY MARTIN

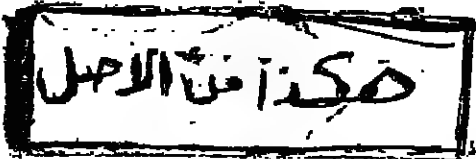
(b) Richard Martin (1754-1834), one of the founders of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. He secured the passage of several humane laws.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

STARLIGHT EXPRESS

White: 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 Nf6 4. d4 exd4 5. Nxd4 Bc5 6. Nxc6 Bxc6 7. Bxc6 Nxc6 8. Qd2 Qd6 9. Nf3 Nf6 10. Bb5 Nf6 11. d4 exd4 12. Nxd4 Bc5 13. Nxc6 Bxc6 14. Bxc6 Nxc6 15. Qd2 Qd6 16. Nf3 Nf6 17. Bb5 Nf6 18. d4 exd4 19. Nxd4 Bc5 20. Nxc6 Bxc6 21. Bxc6 Nxc6 22. Qd2 Qd6 23. Nf3 Nf6 24. Bb5 Nf6 25. d4 exd4 26. Nxd4 Bc5 27. Nxc6 Bxc6 28. Bxc6 Nxc6 29. Qd2 Qd6 30. Nf3 Nf6 31. Bb5 Nf6 32. d4 exd4 33. Nxd4 Bc5 34. Nxc6 Bxc6 35. Bxc6 Nxc6 36. Qd2 Qd6 37. Nf3 Nf6 38. Bb5 Nf6 39. d4 exd4 40. Nxd4 Bc5 41. Nxc6 Bxc6 42. Bxc6 Nxc6 43. Qd2 Qd6 44. Nf3 Nf6 45. Bb5 Nf6 46. d4 exd4 47. Nxd4 Bc5 48. Nxc6 Bxc6 49. Bxc6 Nxc6 50. Qd2 Qd6 51. Nf3 Nf6 52. Bb5 Nf6 53. d4 exd4 54. Nxd4 Bc5 55. Nxc6 Bxc6 56. Bxc6 Nxc6 57. Qd2 Qd6 58. Nf3 Nf6 59. Bb5 Nf6 60. d4 exd4 61. Nxd4 Bc5 62. Nxc6 Bxc6 63. Bxc6 Nxc6 64. Qd2 Qd6 65. Nf3



BBC 1

8.00 **Celebs**
8.30 **BBC Breakfast News** with Laurie Mather and Jill Dando
8.50 **Daytime UK**. A preview of the day's events with Adrian Mills in Manchester and Alan Titchmarsh and Judi Spiers in Birmingham
9.00 **News**, regional news and weather
9.05 **Brainwaves**. Quiz game presented by Andy Craig 9.25 **Day of the Day**. Helpful cookery hints from Rosemary Moon 9.30 **People Today** includes advice for weekend gardeners
10.00 **News**, regional news and weather
10.05 **Children's BBC** introduced by "Parkin" begins with Playdays
10.10 **Barney**. Cartoon series about a dog (10.35 **People Today** includes report from Scotland by Robert Sproul-Cran)
11.00 **News**, regional news and weather
11.05 **Kilroy**. Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject 11.45 **Before Noon**
12.00 **News**, regional news and weather
12.05 **Travel Show Extra**. A guide to Dover and a report from Manzanillo in Mexico 12.20 **Scene**. Today, Judi Spiers and Alan Titchmarsh are joined by Simon Potter for all the showbiz news and gossip
12.55 **Regional news and weather**
1.00 **One O'Clock News** with Philip Hayton. Weather
1.30 **Neighbours**. (Ceefax) 1.50 **Going For Gold**. Quiz game
2.15 **Film: Crooks in Cloisters (1993)**. A monastic romp in the Cistercian order about a gang of crooks who hole up in an island monastery. Starring Barbara Windsor, Bernard Cribbins, Ronald Fraser and Wilfrid Brimble. Directed by Jeremy Summers

3.50 **Touche Turtle**. Cartoon about a musketeer turtle (3.55 **Comics**). Stephen Aldred and Stephen Johnson with the children's general knowledge show 4.10 **The Jetsons**. Cartoon
4.35 **Record Breakers**. Last of the series with Roy Castle and Cheryl Baker. They announce the winner of the Guinness Book of Records cover competition and Ron Reagan Jr. joins the world's widest rollercoaster. Roy meets Carl Lewis, the fastest man on earth, and, in the studio, stars join hundreds of dancers to form the world's longest chorus line
5.00 **Newsround** 5.10 **Byker Grove**. Children's drama series set in Tyneside. (Ceefax)
5.35 **Neighbours (r)**. (Ceefax). Northern Ireland. Sportsweek 5.40 **Inside Ulster**
6.00 **Six O'Clock News** with Peter Sissons and Moira Stuart. Weather
6.30 **Regional News Magazine**
7.00 **Wogan**. Tony's guests tonight are John Cleese and Paul McCartney
7.30 **Film: Mr. Mum (1993)**. Static role reversal comedy in which Michael Keaton plays a happy husband who suddenly loses his job. His wife Caroline (Ten Cents) gets a job in an advertising agency and Jack is left holding the baby and two sons and the domestic fort. Directed by Stan Dragoti
9.00 **Nine O'Clock News** with Marylin Lewis. Regional news and weather
9.30 **Film: The Year of Living Dangerously (1982)**.
© CHOICE: Peter Weir of *Witness* and *The Year of Living Dangerously* is a young Australian television journalist (Mel Gibson) on his first overseas assignment to a politically volatile Indonesia in 1965.

ITV LONDON

6.00 **TV-am**
6.25 **Keynotes**. Alistair Duff hosts the musical quiz in which contestants must match lyrics to well-known songs
10.00 **The Time ... The Place ...** The travelling discussion show tackles another topic in the news
10.40 **This Morning**. Features on home and family matters, presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley
12.05 **Rainbow**. Educational entertainment for pre-school children. Guest John Styles entertains with a Victorian puppet show 12.55 **Home and Away**. Australian soap 12.55 **News** and weather
1.00 **News at One** with John Suchet
1.20 **A Problem Aired**. Viewers' emotional problems are discussed by therapist Dr. John Cobb 1.50 **A Country Practice**
2.20 **Shooshr**. The start of the final of the World Matchplay Championship from the Grosvenor Centre, Essex
3.15 **News** headlines 3.20 **The Young Doctors**
3.55 **Paddington Bear**. Cartoon fun with the bear from darkest Peru 4.25 **Utterly Brilliant**. Expert skateboarder Shane Rouse shows presenter Timmy Mallett the skills involved in skateboarding
4.45 **Knightmare**. Four friends confront the challenging electronic dungeon game
5.10 **Home and Away (r)**
5.40 **News with Fiona Armstrong**
5.55 **The Day**. A short documentary about a crucial day in the life of a member of the public
6.00 **Six O'Clock News**. Frank Bough presents the regional magazine for London and the south-east. News and guests who include Status Quo, Joanne Whalley-Kilmer and the Bolshoi Ballet's principal dancer and there are reports from Danny Baker

7.00 **Family Fortunes**. The Patels from London compete against the Hutton family from Portsmouth for a £3,000 jackpot in the quiz hosted by Les Dennis
7.30 **Coronation Street**. Catch up with the regulars at the Rovers. (Oracle)

8.00 Watching
© CHOICE: The most popular comedy on ITV drew audiences of between 12.9 and 14.8 million for its last series and is now back for its fifth. Those new to Jim Henson's show may wonder why so many people should be hooked on the apparently unremarkable relationship between a spunky young Liverpoolian (Emmer Wray) and her dreamy boyfriend (Paul Brown). Like many sitcom partners, these two have their differences and this helps to provide comic tension. But the chemistry of the series depends on their staying together and there is no realistic prospect that they will not. The other man strand is the contrast between the hapazard life of Wray and Brown and the section and the security of his married sister (Liza Tarbuck), with her cute baby and ambitions of a fitted kitchen. Perhaps the reason for the show's huge success is that the Wray character

represents the freedom of spirit that many hanker after but few achieve. (Oracle)

8.30 **Film: Quilney - The Thin Bone's** Connected to the Kneebone (1976) starring Jack Klugman and Lynette Metlay. A made-for-television mystery in which the grim-faced pathologist investigates a 20-year-old murder after a student presents him with a thigh bone with a nick in it which could have been caused by a bullet. Directed by Alex March. (Oracle)

9.55 **Christmas On TV**. Preview
10.00 **News at Ten** with Sandy Gall and Julia Somerville. Weather 10.35 **LWT News** and weather
10.40 **Hooperman**. American police series. Hooperman's girlfriend has had a miscarriage and his relationship with her has been affected by the tragedy. They are both slowly forced to accept that maybe they are not right for each other. Starring John Ritter
11.10 **Snooker**. Further coverage of the two-day final of the World Matchplay Championship from the Brentwood Centre, Essex
12.35am **We Got It Made**. Festive trouble for Melody, David, Jay, Max and J when they find themselves locked in the basement on Christmas Eve
1.05 **The James Whale Radio Show**. Viewers last chance before Christmas to attempt a coherent and lively discourse with the controversial James Whale
2.05 **ChemAttractions**. The latest news and behind-the-scenes reports from the American bio office
2.35 **Ten Pin Bowling**. Action from the 1990 Livingston UK open championship
3.35 **Film: Walk a Crooked Path (1963)** starring Faith Brook, Tenniel Evans and Patricia Haines. A sinister housewife at a boy's school is accused of murdering one of the boys. Instantly forgotten melodrama directed by John Breson
5.00 **ITN Morning News** with Gilly Carter Ends at 5.00

BBC 2

8.00 **News**
8.15 **Westminster**
9.00 **It Doesn't Have To Hurt**. Painless ways to exercise (r). (Ceefax)
9.10 **Film: For Whom the Bell Tolls (1943)**. Stodgy adaptation of Hemingway's tale of love and death in the Spanish civil war starring Gary Cooper, Ingrid Bergman and Kalina Penkova, who won an Oscar for best supporting actress. Directed by Sam Wood
11.15 **After Hours** with comedy actor Bill Cosby and boxer Evander Holyfield
11.35 **The Invisible Man (r)**
12.10 **The Treasures of Chuquibambica**. An expedition following the path of the Spanish conquistadors (r) 1.10 **Holiday Outings** to the Greek islands (r) 1.20 **Postman Pat (r)**
1.35 **Under the Sea**. Bristol Channel Pilot Cutters (r) 1.55 **A Carol for Mr. Ely**. The choir at Ely Cathedral sing "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"
2.00 **News and weather** followed by **Spot on Friday**, includes Tennis: action from the Grand Slam Cup in Munich; Skiing: news from Haselberg, Switzerland; and Show Jumping from London's Olympia. With news and weather at 3.00 and 5.00
4.00 **Catchword**. Word game
4.30 **Behind the Headlines** presented by Sandy Tolsky
5.00 **The National**. Many have heard of the National Theatre Company, fewer of the National Theatre Company. This engaging little film helps to lift the lid, while suggesting that we cannot like everything it says too seriously. Even the reporter, Drew Stanton, could be a spoof. The Nationals are a

fringe theatre group who started some 20 years ago in Bath and their speciality is taking to the streets in strange costumes. Perhaps the locals have seen it all before, because they seem less surprised than they ought to be. The rest of us might be rather more startled by a fleet of nannies aggressively driving prams, a gang in animal masks or humans with flower pots on their heads should be. From Bath the Nationals have ventured as far afield as Louisiana, Tokyo and Gatedhead and are a cult in Berlin. They also give hedonistic performances for passing cyclists.
5.30 **Food and Drink (r)**
6.00 **Film: Road to Rio (1947, b/w)**. The series of classic Road comedies continues as Hope and Crosby stow away on a liner bound for Rio de Janeiro. Dorothy Lamour plays a dame in distress. Directed by Norman Krasna
6.30 **CHOICE: A Way With Numbers** 6.25 **Remember, Remember 7.05 You Are What You Eat** 7.15 **45 Wales in Westminster**
7.35 **Animation Hour: The Crow and the Canary**
7.45 **What the Papers Say** with Robert Fox of the Daily Telegraph

8.00 **Public Eye: Toys and Television**. Peter Taylor reports from Los Angeles on whether the connection between television companies and toy manufacturers, on both sides of the Atlantic, is too close to be healthy
8.30 **The Travel Show Guides**. Penny Junner reports from the sunny climes of California. (Ceefax)
9.00 **Monty Python's Flying Circus (r)**. (Ceefax)
9.30 **Horizon Special: Red Star in Orbit**.
© CHOICE: The second part of David Dugan's gripping story of the Soviet space program concentrates on its most ambitious project, to land a man on the moon. Having put the first satellite into space, then the first dog, man and woman, the pressure for another world triumph was enormous. But having been beaten so badly in the early years, the United States was not only catching up but starting to move ahead. As the world knows, the first man on the moon was not a Soviet cosmonaut but Neil Armstrong. The Soviet Union spent billions of rubles trying to get their man on the moon, only to pretend afterwards that they had never existed. Taking advantage of the fact that the Soviet scientists were forced to jettison safety in their political masters for yet more space
10.30 **Newsnight** with Peter Snow
11.20 **New West Special**. The final programme in the contemporary country music series
11.50 **Tennis**. Further coverage of the Grand Slam Cup in Munich
12.40am **Behind the Headlines (r)**. Ends at 1.15

CHANNEL 4

6.00 **Sing and Swing**. Performances by jazz stars of the Thirties and Forties
6.30 **Business Daily**
6.50 **Channel Four Daily**
8.25 **The Art of Landscape**. Beautiful scenery backed by soothing music
11.00 **As It Happens**. In the UK, Michael Groth and his camera crew report from a US fleet hospital and from HMS Hurworth
12.00 **The Parliament Programme**
12.30 **Business Daily**. Financial and business news service
1.00 **Sesame Street**
2.00 **Pet World**. Val John Wilson continues his exploration of people and their pets with a look at a private pet sanctuary. Cyclopedic horses at work and a small dog that travels on wheels (r)
2.30 **Film: Summer Madness (1965)**. David Lean's delightful romantic comedy starring Katharine Hepburn as a lonely spinster secretary on holiday in Venice who falls for the charms of an antique shop owner. Their love affair can never be ended in Lean's *Summer Madness*, the two are forced by circumstances to part for ever. The performances of Hepburn and Rossano Brazzi as the star-crossed lovers are impeccable and the Italian scenery is gorgeous. Hepburn was nominated for an Oscar as best actress. He had to wait until his next film, *The Bridge on the River Kwai*.
4.20 **Parade**. Animation from Hungary

4.30 **Fifteen-to-One**. Quiz
5.00 **Not on Sunday**. Theo Sowa visits Dartmoor prison to investigate the role of religion behind bars
5.30 **American Football: Red 42**. The latest from the NFL with Mark Luckhurst and Gary Imlich.
6.00 **Happy Days**. More high school comedy with Henry Winkler and Ron Howard
6.30 **Tonight with Jonathan Ross**. Elton John is the guest
7.00 **Channel 4 News** with Jon Snow and Zanna Baskerville
7.50 **Business Daily**. Financial and television critic, reviews the stage version of Kenneth Grahame's *Wind in the Willows*, adapted by Alan Bennett, at the National Theatre. Weather
8.00 **Brookside**. (Teletext)
8.30 **Hard News** presented by Ray Snoddy. Includes an exploration of media manipulation by Ernest Saunders and examines the sometimes fraught relationship between city journalists and big business; and Melina Witwicki, media correspondent of *The Times*, looks at the way the Press has covered the election of the Birmingham Six over the years
9.00 **Dead Donkeys**. Newcomer comedy that was topical on its first showing in September (r)
9.30 **Views of Kew: The Green Ark**. The last in an attractive series on the Royal Botanical Gardens, going behind the scenes to look at the scientific and conservation work being done there (Teletext)
10.00 **The Golden Girls**. Sharp American comedy with the mature Florida ladies. Blanche tries to sell a reneved Mercedes to attract wealthy man and Sophie comes into money from a very different source. With Betty White, Bea Arthur, Rue McClanahan and Estelle Getty. (Teletext)
10.30 **The Louie Anderson Show**. The American stand-up comedian with his views of life
11.00 **The Word** presented live from Universal Studios, Hollywood, by Terry Christian and Amanda De Cadenet. Dan Aykroyd, Richard Gere, and who will be presented with a triple platinum disc for his album *Only Yesterday*, Ricki Lake, star of *Cy Baby*, country singer Dwight Yoakam, and Tony Cecere, a stunt man who has appeared in the films *Grease* and *Nightmare on Elm Street*
12.00 **DanceDance**. Hot movement from the dance floor of London's Braxton Academy
1.00am **Film: It Came from Hollywood (1962)**. A collection of some of Hollywood's worst on-screen moments, taken mainly from terrible B movies such as *Attack of the Killer Tomatoes*, *Invasion of the Nephthys* and the unforgettable *Incredibly Strange Creatures Who Stopped Living and Became Mixed-Up Zombies*. Linking this collage of surreal scenes from the dark side of Hollywood are John Aykroyd, Richard Gere, and Chong and Gilda Radner. Directed by Andrew Solt and Malcolm Leo. Ends at 2.30

ADDITIONALS

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BUSINESS

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Executive Editor
David Brewerton

FRIDAY DECEMBER 14 1990

Disposals help Stakis top £30m

HEFTY profits on disposals, totalling £17.1 million, and almost £11 million of capitalised interest on new developments sent pre-tax profits at Stakis, the Scottish hotels and leisure group, ahead from £27.1 million to £30.6 million in the year to end-September.

A final dividend of 1.8p (1.6p) makes a total of 2.7p for the year, up from last year's total payment of 2.31p.

Earnings per share expanded to 12.06p (9.22p).

The company issued a warning that difficult times in the hotel trade would take their toll on future trading, while further profits from disposals would be limited.

Charles Bystram, the deputy chairman, said: "This year is going to be very tough and I don't think one is going to be in a position to sell hotels."

"Life is going to be difficult for lots of people. We will not have a bonanza. We're looking at the future very realistically."

The shares fell 13p to 324p.

Greenall payout goes up 15%

Greenall Whitley, the public houses-to-hotels chain, made pre-tax profits of £62.2 million, up 19.6 per cent, in the year to end-September on sales up by only 1 per cent at £497 million.

Earnings per share rose 24.5 per cent to 38.1p and the final dividend is 6p, making 10p for the year, an increase of 15 per cent.

The shares fell 13p to 324p.

J&FB results ahead 21%

Johnson & Firth Brown, the specialist metals and engineering group, increased its taxable profits by 21 per cent to £12.5 million during the year to the end of September.

There is a final dividend of 2p a share, making a total of 3p against 2.5p last time, payable from earnings a share of 6.4p, up 23 per cent.

The shares fell 13p to 324p.

US dollar 1.9440 (same)

German mark 2.8781 (+0.0039)

Exchange Index 93.5 (+0.2)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1704.9 (+12.7)

FT-SE 100 2172.2 (+15.3)

New York Dow Jones 2816.08 (-8.19)

Tokyo Nikkei Ave 24642.97 (+643.56)

Closing Prices ... Page 25

Major indices and major changes Page 24

INTEREST RATES

CURRENCIES

GOLD

NORTH SEA OIL

TOURIST RATES

Receivers move in at Conran's Butlers Wharf

By MATTHEW BOND

BUTLERS Wharf, the private property company controlled by Sir Terence Conran, the former head of Habitat and Storehouse, has been placed in administrative receivership.

Sir Terence has struggled to keep his ambitious scheme afloat for months amid the collapse of the residential and commercial property markets. But yesterday a statement from Ernst & Young, the receiver, said that "despite intensive negotiations to ensure the survival of Butlers Wharf, all efforts have failed".

Receivers were appointed after a request from the board of Butlers Wharf.

In July, Arthur Andersen, the auditor, qualified the company's accounts and reported that the scheme had a negative net worth of £6.6 million. Midland Bank is believed to be owed the bulk of the project's debts, which a year ago stood at about £30 million and are believed to have risen considerably since.

In the summer, Sir Terence said the Midland Bank was being "very co-operative".

The failure of Butlers Wharf is believed to have made considerable inroads into Sir Terence's personal fortune.

Five months ago, he sold a 5 per cent stake in Storehouse for £23.5 million, saying that the proceeds would be invested in Butlers Wharf, a project which he said was

"extremely close to my heart". Sir Terence's dream was to convert the complex of listed warehouses, on the south bank of the Thames at Tower Bridge, into a mix of offices and riverside apartments. Last year, he described the purchase of the warehouses in 1984 as his best deal ever. Last night, Sir Terence was not available for comment, and his office was referring calls to Ernst & Young.

The success of Butlers Wharf was heavily dependent on selling the highly-priced apartments to meet the scheme's growing interest bill. When the docklands market led the slump in London's property values, Butlers Wharf was in trouble.

Nigel Hamilton of Ernst & Young indicated that the appointment of receivers would not lead to a quick sale of Butlers Wharf's assets. "It is not the joint receivers intention to try and effect an early sale of any of the company's property," Mr Hamilton says.

He is confident that there is a valuable project waiting to be completed in the longer term, and that he had been assured of support from the bankers.

Sir Terence has tried to rescue the scheme in a number of ways. This year, Regalian, the quoted developer, was believed to be close to buying a 50 per cent interest in the scheme for about £10 million. But it withdrew on the grounds that its exposure to the troubled docklands mar-

ket was perceived to be high enough.

Regalian's plan involved a valuation of the project, which Sir Terence said showed the scheme to be worth £107 million. Sir Terence believed that valuation to be conservative and in July said the directors of the company had valued the scheme at £138 million.

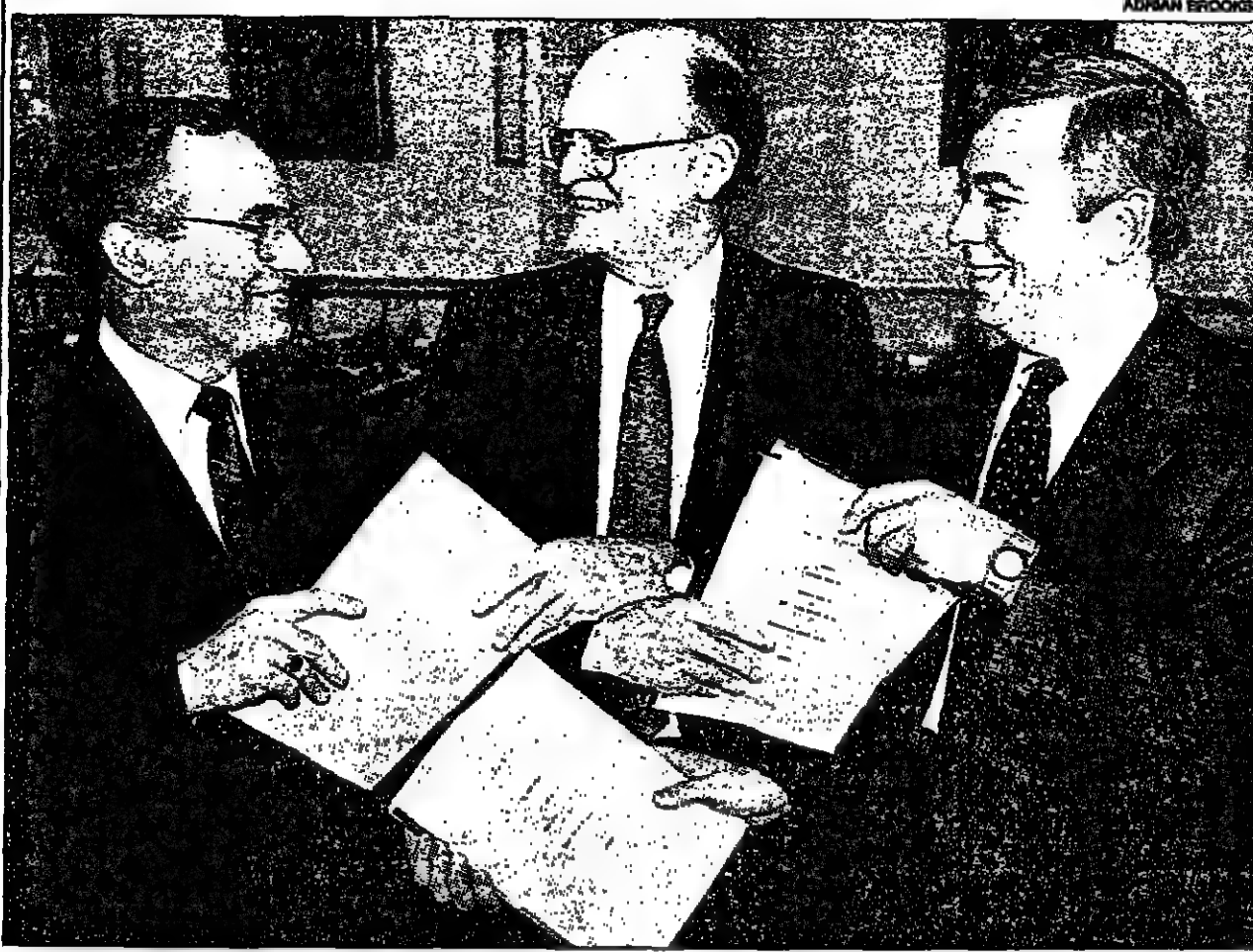
The 700,000 sq ft scheme was dealt another blow when Logica, the computer company, withdrew from negotiations for a pre-let of a 180,000 sq ft office block. A pre-let would have enabled Butlers Wharf to raise additional finance on the project.

According to the company's last annual return, which showed an after-tax loss of £4.1 million, Sir Terence owned 73 per cent of the shares in Butlers Wharf. Other shareholders include Roger Seelig, the former Morgan Grenfell banker, and Lord Rothschild.

Sir Robert McAlpine, the private contractor, has a 10 per cent stake and is also the contractor for the project. Conran Roche, Sir Terence's architectural practice, is also a shareholder.

After Regalian's withdrawal, Morgan Grenfell was retained to seek ways of refinancing the company. In the summer, Arthur Andersen gave warning that if these negotiations were unsuccessful Butlers Wharf would be unable to continue trading.

£1.5bn loan lights up Power



National Power, due to be sold off by the government early next year, signed a £1,500 million loan from a syndicate of more than 70 banks yesterday, as required under the terms of the flotation.

Neil Harland, left, signed the syndication document with John Barker, the chief executive of National Power, and John Zutter, the managing director of Manufacturers Hanover.

Byrne goes as Waterford Wedgwood splits in two

By JOHN BELL

WATERFORD Wedgwood is to split its crystal and china businesses into separate operational units in a bid to reverse a severe profits collapse over the past three years.

The group's chief executive, Mr Paddy Byrne, the former senior executive of Ford Europe who joined the group three years ago, is to resign. Mr Byrne says he fully supports the shift of corporate direction but sees no role for himself.

After a crippling three month strike in its crystal division, the group is heading for losses of about £220 million (£18.5 million) this year, according to Dublin analysts. In 1986, when Waterford Glass, one of Ireland's largest employers, acquired Wedgwood for £250 million the group turned in profits of £23.2 million.

In a move widely seen as a rescue operation, Mr Tony O'Reilly, chairman of the Heinz food group, and Morgan Stanley, the American investment bank, took a 29.9

per cent stake in the group last March. Analysts believe the proposed split has been agreed after pressure from Mr O'Reilly and Fitzwilliam, his private company.

Sir Arthur Bryan, former chief executive of Wedgwood, described the planned changes as "better late than never." He added: "I would have preferred the decision had been taken 18 months ago but I realise these things take time."

Commenting on the decision by Mr Byrne to leave the group, Sir Arthur said: "A very sensible decision."

Mr Howard Kilroy, the group chairman, said that each part of the group would have its own board, management, resources and balance sheet. The internal restructuring would help each management to concentrate on its own brands and to pursue global strategies necessary for their development.

"In addition the two businesses will be more cost effective and significant group overheads will be eliminated."

Bear raid sends Next into dive

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

NEXT, the retail group, became the latest victim of a bear raid which halved its already weakened share price and sent the City into a panic.

By the end of the day a record 45 million Next shares had been traded.

The shares fell 8p to 7½p at one point on rumours that the group was in emergency talks with its bankers but recovered to end the day at 14½p, down 1½p, when the group put out a statement denying the rumours and stressing it had the full support of its bankers.

Next shares have been falling steadily for months now. They started the week at 20p having been 80p a year ago. The share is one of the worst performers since the October 1987 crash, when the group was valued at £1 billion. In the nervous environment surrounding the stock it took only one large institution to panic and unload a large package of shares for the price to collapse. Analysts have cut forecasts for the current year from about £10 million to as little as £2 million.

Coats may cut final dividend

Coats may cut final dividend

By OUR CITY STAFF

SHARES in Coats Viyella dropped 15p to 98p, as Neville Bain, chief executive, gave warning that profits in the current year would be towards the bottom end of expectations. He also hinted at a cut in the final dividend.

Shares in Tootal, the rival textile group, fell 10p to 70p, as dealers took the view that a bid for Tootal was now less likely. Mr Bain said Coats' British operations were being badly affected by the slowdown in retail spending, and were facing cheaper imports due to sterling's strength.

Analysts now expect Coats to make £105 million pre-tax in the year to December, compared with £137 million in 1989. With a smaller proportion of its profits earned in Britain, the company faces a higher average tax rate because of unrelieved advanced corporation tax liabilities. At that level of profits, an unchanged dividend would not be fully covered.

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investors in industry

Molins chairman to head British Coal

By PHILIP BARNETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE government has named Neil Clarke, former chairman of Johnson Matthey, as chairman of British Coal after an extensive search to find a successor to Lord Haslam of Bolton.

Mr Clarke, former chief executive and deputy chairman of Charter Consolidated, will take up the post on January 1, initially on a part-time basis for about three months while a successor is found for him at Molins, where he is chairman.

Senior British Coal officials were surprised by the choice of Mr Clarke, who will be paid £225,000 a year - a 45 per cent increase on Lord Haslam's salary of £155,000. Bob Reid, chairman of British Rail, is paid £200,000 and Sir Robert Scholey, chairman of British Steel, £308,000.

Mr Clarke said the job was a "great challenge and opportunity". He said he knew a certain amount about mining,

but had a good deal of learning to do. He would not comment on the main difficulties he was likely to face in the job, but said: "Coal has got a place as an important fuel source for our country, and it is having to adapt to changing circumstances in the market-place."

Of Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, he said: "We have the same interests fundamentally - to produce an effective and productive coal industry." However, he said it was "inevitable that we will see things from a different point of view."

Kevin Barron, the Labour party's coal spokesman, said: "I hope this appointment will mark the end of a disastrous decade when the government, by doing nothing, created chaos." He said it was time for "imaginative and innovative measures" for coal.

Comment, page 23

Levitt Group chairman arrested

By ANGELA MACKAY

ROGER Levitt, chairman and founder of the collapsed Levitt financial services group, was arrested at his home yesterday while the companies fraud squad of the Metropolitan Police raided several Levitt offices in the West End and seized a number of boxes of documents.

Scotland Yard detectives arrested Mr Levitt at his home in Highgate and took him to the squad's headquarters in Holborn. Last night, Mr Levitt was being interviewed in relation to alleged misappropriation of funds but had not been charged.

Mr Levitt's empire unravelled pub-

three months ago. The company's plight deepened and KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock, the accountant, was appointed liquidator on Tuesday. Mr Levitt stepped down as a director of the Levitt Group two weeks ago at the insistence of Fimbra, the regulatory body.

The investigations now encompass the trade and industry department and the serious fraud office. Sources at Scotland Yard confirmed all three bodies had been co-operating since Tuesday.

Tim Hayward and Phil Wallace, the joint liquidators, made 201 employees redundant yesterday, but payments and procedures have been hampered by the seizure of documents and computer

other companies within the Levitt Group, including the insurance broking arm, remain.

Mr Hayward said that liabilities amounted to £40 million, compared with assets of £10 million. However, it was becoming increasingly unlikely that there was any value left in the assets which implies a total deficiency of close to £40 million overall.

Fimbra advised clients who were concerned about their investments to contact their life insurance companies or the liquidators at Levitt's offices.

The regulator estimated there were about 4,000 to 5,000 active clients of Levitt, compared with a published figure of 18,000 that included those who used

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Weaving a sad story in textiles

COMMENT

DAVID BREWERTON

Neville Bain picked a fine time to move from Cadbury Schweppes to chief executive of Coats Viyella when he made his switch in September. Instead of spending the run-up to Christmas counting the number of chocolate tree novelties, tooth-rotting gift packs and bottles of fizzy mixers that will be consumed over the festive season, he is having to think how to structure a string of cottage industries in textiles to cope with recession.

His first meeting with analysts in his new sector will be one that he would wish not to have undertaken. Instead of being able to outline his grand plans, brought to textiles after 27 years in chocolate, he has to deliver the sorry message that profits will be at the bottom of the range and that the final dividend, if maintained, is unlikely to be covered by after-tax earnings.

The news might be welcome to Tootal, which sits in daily dread of the early morning drop that will tell the company it is again in play to Coats Viyella, but it will be just another sorry reminder that the textile industry in this

country is never far from extinction. In the past few weeks, we have seen distress signals from Dawson International, one of the most modern and most market-led of the fraternity, and a number of other unmistakable symptoms of deep recession. Textiles feed the high street, and the consumer is off his feed. The stock chains have become shorter, and pain in retailing is felt instantly further back in the chain.

None of this is likely to prompt a sudden reversal of economic policy, even if today's retail price index does drop obediently back into single figures. But one aspect of the pain being felt by industry which Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, could address, and where he could make his name as a minor reforming Chancellor, is in advance corporation tax. The current structure means that as British profits sag, the effective tax rate rises. It is a problem afflicting Coats, and Trafalgar

House among others, and is a distortion which needs to be addressed. The problem is nothing new, and some companies have even gone so far as to make acquisitions simply to increase the proportion of British profits, rather than for any sound industrial reason.

In the meantime, industry has the uncomfortable feeling that the new prime minister is not aware of the depth of the recession into which this country is slipping. They worry that he still listens intently to the Treasury rather than to the industrialists at the coalface. Industry, faced with rapidly deteriorating conditions and wholesale loss of confidence, is seeking to reassure itself that if

only the prime minister knew how bad it all was, he would take action to reverse the decline and stimulate the economy. There may just be a nugget of reality in the skipful of self-delusion, in that the more industry squeals the harder it may be for Messrs Major and Lamont to stand their ground.

Cracked glass

The merger of Waterford and Wedgwood, two of the finest names in tableware the world over, should have been a marriage made in heaven. It turned instead into something closer to a nightmare. Waterford's glass is to Ireland

as Gucci is to Italy or Rolls-Royce to Britain. Industrially however, Waterford has seemed more like Ireland's British Leyland in its worst days of outright strife between management and unions.

While Waterford's management grappled unsuccessfully with its militant unions, losses in the crystal division have soared to £160 million in the past three years. Only steady profits from Wedgwood — it contributed almost £40 million in 1988 and 1989 — kept the group on an even keel.

In desperation, management let it be known it was considering a shift of production facilities to Czechoslovakia, a master stroke of how not to promote harmony on the factory floor.

Small wonder that the workers' response to further cost-cutting proposals early this year and a fresh injection of equity from a consortium of American investors, led by Heinz chief executive

Tony O'Reilly and Morgan Stanley, was a 14-week strike which cost more than £10 million.

The departure of chief executive Paddy Byrne after this catalogue of disaster is hardly a surprise.

But the latest management plans to restore the group to an even keel are by no means easy to understand. For until the details emerge, they appear to fly in the face of conventional management wisdom.

Under the guise of restoring autonomy to the crystal and china operations, separate boards and management structures are to be created. It is difficult to avoid the view that some duplication will result. The board's assurance that considerable cost savings will result must be taken with a pinch of salt, for the time being at least.

Until the board reveals its plans in detail, there will be at least the suspicion among the workers and in the City that the separation has more to do with paving the way for a sale of the highly sought-after Wedgwood operations if ever the financial need became dire.

Avoid short stay in Stakis shares

TEMPUS

EVEN hardened leisure sector analysts were taken aback by the gashiness of the figures from Stakis yesterday, when borrowings of £151 million were matched with clean full-year profits that failed to reach £3 million.

On the face of it, pre-tax profits of £30.6 million in the year to end-September were 13 per cent higher than those of the previous year. But they included £17.1 million from disposals and £10.9 million of capitalised interest.

Against this, the company's interest charges rose from £3.7 million to £8.9 million. A clean profits figure of £2.62 million, therefore, should arguably be set against a comparable £18.2 million last time.

Stakis has long claimed that its policy of transforming a distinctly lacklustre hotels portfolio into an upmarket chain, relying on its Country Court brand, would inevitably generate profits from disposals that should come in above the tax line.

But the latest triennial revaluation, which gave a net asset value of 131p against a share price 1p lower at 47p yesterday, will combine with the lack of buyers for hotels to bring these profits to a halt this year.

Trading conditions, meanwhile, remain difficult, with room occupancy rates only held up by heavy discounting. The three Country Courts will take another year or more to come into their full potential.

The board was keen to stress its conservative dividend policy yesterday. Well it might: it is about the only aspect of the accounts that deserves the label.

Fubs, casinos and restaurants are hardly an effective counterbalance, given the current climate, to the hotels division. At least one big player north of the border has looked Stakis over and walked away, while the shares have halved over the past 12

months. Pre-tax profits of £20 million this year put the shares on a multiple of little more than 6.

The quality of earnings can only improve as the new hotels, pubs and casinos come on stream. Long-term gamblers, therefore, might take the view that the shares have bottomed out, while holders might as well hang on for the upturn. In the short term, the shares are best avoided.

Greenall Whitley

IT HAS been a year of upheaval for Greenall Whitley. The one-time brewer has closed its breweries, with the loss of 700 jobs, and emerged as a leisure company, concentrating on running pubs, hotels and restaurants.

Greenall pushed profits above analysts' expectations for the year to end-September, but the City responded curiously, marking the shares down 13p to 324p. Followers were disappointed both with the make up of the profits and with the unexpectedly high number for group reorganisation costs.

Pre-tax profits for the year rose 19.6 per cent to £62.2 million on sales up 1 per cent at £497 million. Earnings per share rose 24.5 per cent to 38.1p and the final dividend is 6p making 10p for the year, an increase of 15 per cent.

The healthy profit increase is due partly to a reduced tax charge and partly to higher than expected property profits at £12.2 million (£7.7 million). The interest charge has fallen to £18.6 million (£19.2 million) and the underlying operating profit rose by 6.5 per cent to £68.5 million.

The figures include a £57 million extraordinary charge, which included £48.8 million of brewery closure costs, £15.6 million of writedowns and

rationalisation costs in the American hotels division and £14.5 million of group reorganisation costs. The charges were offset by a £22 million gain on the sale of the group's interest in Vladimir Vodka.

Pubs and brewing increased profits by just 5 per cent to £38.8 million, affected by declining beer volumes. The brewery had not been profitable, but the managed and tenanted houses both increased profits.

The Premier House restaurant chain increased profits by 15.9 per cent and the hotels division, which includes the De Vere chain, had a good first half but began to suffer in the second half. Treadway Inns in America had a difficult time. Earnings have fallen to 20 per cent.

The group is cautious about trading in the current year and the hotel and more expensive restaurants are likely to suffer further with the recession. Greenall is set to make about £73 million this year, but only with the help of some £12 million of property profits. The shares are trading on roughly nine times earnings, not expensive for a brewer but a bit on the high side for a leisure stock.

Johnson & Firth Brown

IT IS not often that the City urges an engineering company to go out and spend money on acquisitions, but that is proving to be the case with Johnson & Firth Brown.

J&FB is sitting on a cash pile of around £17 million and benefiting from high interest rates.

Yet last year the company achieved a return on equity of no less than 20 per cent, comfortably exceeding the best rates offered by its

bankers. Taxable profits for the year to the end of September were 21 per cent higher at £12.3 million while earnings rose 23 per cent to 6.4p a share.

A final dividend of 2p a share makes 3p for the year, against 2.6p last time.

Boostered by a higher than anticipated interest receivable of almost £800,000, results came in at the top end of City expectations and the shares, quiet of late, climbed 3p to 53p.

Yet a cautious statement on current trading prompted analysts to trim back their forecasts to around £11.8 million pre-tax, still respectable against other recent results from the sector, putting the shares on a p/e of less than nine, offering a yield of eight per cent.

Ironically, the prospect of lower interest rates is a factor in the downgrading. However, this may provide the ideal opportunity to build up holdings.

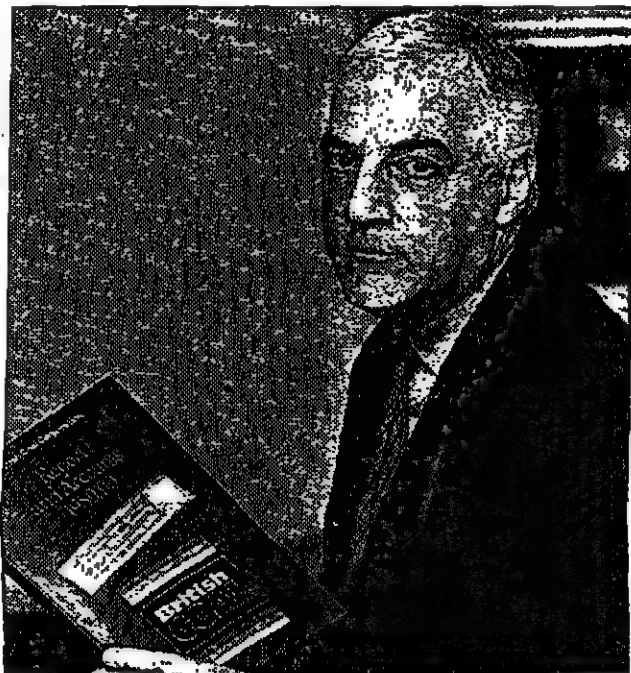
J&FB has proved adept at squeezing better than average margins from mature businesses, notably from Firth Rixson in forgings and castings.

Commercial aerospace accounts for 25 per cent of turnover but business is otherwise broadly spread.

Takeover speculation faded when Suter sold its 7 per cent stake last year but there may be renewed interest in a solid performer with almost one quarter of its market capitalisation sitting in the bank.

This prospect should provide further incentive, if any were needed, to take advantage of its strong financial position and seek out some of the bargains which are likely to become available as the recession deepens. The recent acquisition of Cobden Chadwick, a manufacturer of printing presses, from the receivers proves that J&FB is not afraid of raiding the piggy bank.

Coal chief's future rests with electorate



Neil Clarke: facing difficult market conditions

THE role of Neil Clarke as chairman of British Coal will largely be determined by events outside his control. His future rests with the result of the next general election.

For the electorate, the choice could hardly be more clear. If John Major and the conservatives are returned, the pledge to privatise the coal industry given by Cecil Parkinson when he was energy secretary will be kept. If Neil Kinnock and the Labour party are elected, coal privatisation will be nothing more than a conservative dream.

Until then, British Coal officials privately believe that what Mr Clarke can best do is carry on where Lord Haslam will leave off when he steps down at the end of the month. Lord Haslam's priorities have been to improve British Coal's efficiency and to help ready the industry for the privatisation. The latter has been an ideological objective of the conservatives since the formation of the 1978 plan for the nationalised industries by Nicholas Ridley.

Mr Clarke inherits an industry in which a substantial part of that plan has been achieved. In what was in effect a farewell speech, Lord Haslam last week rehearsed the litany: since the end of the year-long miners' strike in 1985, the number of pits is down from 170 to 69; employees down from 221,000 to 78,000; production costs down 40 per cent; productivity up from 2.37 tonnes per man-shift to a record 5.01 tpm. From the huge losses of earlier years, the light of profit is glimpsed at the end of the tunnel: with an operating profit of about £150 million for the first eight months of the year, the winter months should lift that to £250 million, giving the first bonum profit, of about £100 million, for 13 years.

Lord Haslam was proud of the achievement: "The turnaround in the industry's performance since the dark days of the miners' strike has been, arguably, the most rapid, fundamental and relatively trouble-free restructuring of any major UK business since the second world war."

Some at British Coal will be sceptical about whether Mr Clarke is the right man to carry forward Lord Haslam's work. But those who helped select the new chairman are firm in Mr Clarke's praise: they say his background in mining work at Charter Consolidated stands him in good stead for the job, which he will do part time until a successor is found for him as chairman of Molins.

Tyack's, the headhunting group, began final work on the British Coal job in July, approaching up to 60 people. It was a hard grind. Some turned the job down flat. Staying on was suggested to

Lord Haslam, but he made it clear he was determined to go at the end of the year. Mr Clarke emerged the victor, although some are likely to see the difficulties still facing British Coal as so substantial as to make the victory a pyrrhic one.

Educated at Rugby and with a law degree from London University, Mr Clarke qualified as a chartered accountant and after specialising in company taxation, moved to Charter Consolidated in 1969. He eventually became managing director in 1979, chief executive a year later and deputy chairman in 1982. After the collapse of Johnson

Matthey's banking operation, he was appointed chairman of the precious materials group until he resigned last year. Mr Clarke, aged 56, is married with three children.

Regardless of privatisation, Mr Clarke will have to wrestle with the most difficult market conditions the British coal industry has ever faced. British Coal has a three-year breathing space with its main customers, the electricity generators, by means of a contract guaranteeing sales of 70 million tonnes for the first two years and 65 million for the third. Whether British Coal wins further contracts with the generators will largely be up to Mr Clarke.

He will also be pressed by the continuing need to "green" the industry as far and as fast as possible. The reduced but still potent figure of Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, will also still be there. Even though the NUM was beaten in the strike, and now has virtually no negotiating role at British Coal, Mr Scargill remains an important factor in the industry.

Privatisation, however, is the big issue. While some Labour party leaders might yearn secretly for a privatised coal industry to see off Mr Scargill for good, a conservative general election victory would lay down a full agenda for Mr Clarke. For a re-elected conservative government, coal privatisation is possible by taking it to market and selling shares in the manner of electricity, gas and others, but unlikely the bettering is that the spectre of Mr Scargill alone would be enough to scare away would-be buyers.

More likely is an outright sale — Lord Hanson is mentioned as the most likely buyer — although a John Major government might balk at shifting a monopolistic nationalised industry in the public sector to what would be a similar position in private hands. From January 1, Lord Haslam gratefully gives up the burden, and Mr Clarke begins to await his fate.

PHILIP BASSETT
Industrial Editor

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

So long partners

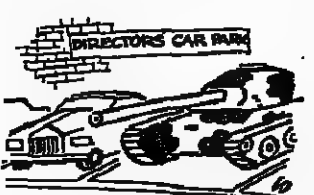
THE 39 Barclays de Zoete Wedd employees who lost their jobs in a rationalisation of the firm's UK equity division, include six former partners of Wedd Duracher, once the top jobbing firm in the City. The one-time partners are among 12 market-makers shown the door and are Nick Fyler, John Pegrum, Colin "Noddy" Noden, Derek Sansom, George Colmer and Colin Brown. Simon Earl, a convertibles market-maker was also made redundant. The 15 UK equity salesman laid off included Andrew Walker, a property specialist, Martin Evans, a chemicals specialist, and Jonathan Williams. Brian Sturgess, the highly-regarded media analyst was among 12 analysts told that their services were no longer required. Speculation that BZW has yet to announce a further tranche of redundancies was denied by the firm. "We have completely finished," says a spokesman. "Everyone was told by noon. It is a big enough cut for the UK equity division. Natural wastage will take care of any further cuts that may be needed."

CONDEMNED by their own words... a BZW circular on the financial sector, published on Tuesday, was headed "The lights dim in investment banking." The third paragraph said: "It is surely only a

the City and within the securities industry it would defy credibility if there were not further withdrawals."

Spoilt for choice

PETER Ward and Gerry Boxall, due to join the main board at Vickers in January, will receive more than the usual congratulatory letters. A traditional perk for all Vickers directors, because it owns the Rolls-Royce motor car company, is a choice of either a Bentley or a Rolls. Ward, aged 45, already has a Bentley Turbo, since he runs Rolls-Royce Motors, but Boxall, aged 54, and chief executive of Vickers Defence Systems,



manufacturer of Challenger 2 tanks, will now be able to upgrade his company car. While he decides which model to plump for, Ward has signalled the old debate as to whether a Bentley or a Rolls is more expensive. Excluding specialist coach-built models, the top of the range Bentley Turbo R is now £4,000 more expensive — at £108,994.22 — than the top of the range Rolls Royce Silver Spur. When Ward joined Rolls-Royce seven years ago a Bentley was significantly cheaper. "But the

says, adding that the Rolls is designed for people who like to be chauffeured, with a smoother ride and more regal appearance, while the Bentley is targeted at entrepreneurs of the baby boom era, who want to drive the car themselves. "It has a younger, sportier image." It follows then that Bentleys are driven much more and that, after two years, the average Bentley will, according to Ward, have 40,000 miles on the clock, compared with 10,000 on a Rolls-Royce.

SO INDUSTRIOUS are Japan's white collar workers that, according to a survey conducted by Fukoku Life Insurance in Tokyo's stock market district, 40 per cent now fear that they could actually die from work.

Al be seeing you

CREDIT Suisse First Boston has lost yet another of its key employees, this time Al Noor Ramji, who was head of its treasury operation. Ramji, who had been with CSFB for six years, joins Swiss Bank Corporation next week as head of its systems department. "He will be responsible for all our systems development and computer operations," says a delighted spokesman for SBC. "He is very well known and one of the best in his field."

Racing in

DESPITE his own troubles, Lord Haslam is not alone in

stepped in to help a racing charity left in the lurch after the downfall of Levitt Group. Levitt had pledged £150,000 to help Race Aid, which aims to raise £1 million in 1991 for Royal Marsden Hospital's cancer appeal, but it had only given £20,000. "The racing industry is cancer-prone because of all the bruising and injuries suffered by jockeys," says Malcolm Harrison, one of its organisers. Since an anonymous donor telephoned to say he will guarantee Race Aid has sufficient support. William Hill has offered administrative and promotional help and the Royal Garden Hotel, Kensington, has volunteered to host a fund raising ball in April. A number of top jockeys and trainers have promised to donate 1 per cent of their 1991 earnings and owner Fred Barr has promised 5 per cent.

After mourning

CHAMPAGNE sales are expected to fall 10 per cent in Britain next year because of the recession and price rises. But Sir Winston Churchill's favourite brand *marque* is none the less sanguine about the future. Pol Roger, in Epervay, has finally replaced the black border on their finest product, the Sir Winston Churchill Cuvée. A quarter of a century after his death they have come out of mourning and inserted a navy blue border to mark his years as First Lord of the Admiralty.

BOC chief ready to hand over to successor in 1992

RICHARD Giordano, the American chairman and chief executive of BOC Group, the Surrey-based industrial gases company, is to bow out in 1992.

He will be succeeded as chief executive by Patrick Rich, 59, a Frenchman from Alsace-Lorraine, currently deputy chairman, next year. M Rich will take on the dual role one year later.

Mr Giordano, 56, said he originally wanted to leave the company in October 1989. "I told my board that I wanted to do this job for ten years," he said. "Ten years would have been long enough from my standpoint and the company's. I also believe that these jobs should be capped to ten years anyway." His decision to stay on as chairman until 1992, he said, is to ensure an orderly transfer of responsibility to M Rich, who moved to Britain earlier this year, when he took over as deputy chairman.

M Rich, who joined the board of BOC in 1983 as a non-executive director, was formerly chief executive of Alcan Aluminium SA, and has spent a number of years working in Canada and South America. He said he was greatly concerned about the possibility of a failure of the Gatt negotiations, which might lead to a trade war and the establishment of large trading blocks. The damage of a Gatt failure, to companies like BOC, which operate factories in the US and the Far East, would be limited but he said the overall economic consequences could be severe.

businessman, and last year managed a respectable £937,000. He took over as chief executive in 1979 and took the chairmanship in 1985.

M Rich speaks five languages, his native French, English, German, Portuguese and Spanish. Both men claimed there was no symbolism attached to the choice of 1992 for the transfer, but they admitted that during the 1990s the company, whose European presence is still small, will increasingly thrust itself upon the continental European market.

BOC was one of Britain's most successful companies in the 1980s during which period the share price rose over tenfold. Mr Giordano said he considers his company's prosperity during the period as his greatest achievement, while his greatest regret was not to have made even more money for his shareholders.

Mr Giordano has frequently expressed concern about short-termism in British industry. "I still think it [short-termism] is a problem. It is implicit in our business environment. Everyone blames everyone else. But it is important that we recognise it exists. I sense that there is a feeling to brush it aside like a social disease," he said.

Mr Giordano will stay on as a non-executive director after he has relinquished his posts. He said he has not made any firm plans for his future.

WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU
European Business

Regrettably it's no storm in a teacup

Because the Middle East holds two-thirds of known oil reserves, any political action or conflict in the region quickly reverberates around the Western world.

Ever since 1956 the world has faced successive oil crises.

Supplies face disruption, prices can spiral and economies hold their breath.

And when the price of oil goes up, experience shows that the price of gas is likely to follow suit.

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BRITISH NUCLEAR FORUM

Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Tesco (as)	Food	
2	Storehouse (as)	Drugs, Stores	
3	Lloyds (as)	Bank, Discount	
4	Johnson & F	Industrial E-K	
5	Nat West (as)	Bank, Discount	
6	UK Land	Property	
7	Hardy O & G	Oil, Gas	
8	Yorkshire Chem	Chemicals, Plastics	
9	Alfred Lyons (as)	Breweries	
10	ERE	Motors, Aircraft	
11	Tipstock	Transport	
12	Soc & New (as)	Services	
13	Enterprise (as)	Oil, Gas	
14	Bepak	Industrial A-D	
15	Unilever (as)	Industrial S-Z	
16	Sons Gp	Electricals	
17	Calderbury-Schw (as)	Food	
18	Attwoods	Building, Roads	
19	Smith WH & A (as)	Drugs, Stores	
20	Sebe (as)	Industrial S-Z	
21	Compagnie Gp	Leisure	
22	T & N (as)	Industrial S-Z	
23	Robert & Britten	Transport	
24	Lep	Industrial A-D	
25	BTR (as)	Leisure	
26	Capital Radio	Leisure	
27	Avon Rubber	Industrial A-D	
28	LASMO (as)	Oil, Gas	
29	Abbey National (as)	Bank, Discount	
30	Evans Of Leeds	Property	
31	WPP	Paper, Print, Adv	
32	Hickson	Chemicals, Plastics	
33	Wiggins	Building, Roads	
34	Tice	Industrial S-Z	
35	Honda Motor	Motors, Aircraft	
36	Wyndham Eng	Industrial S-Z	
37	British Gas (as)	Oil, Gas	
38	Wolverhampton & D	Breweries	
39	Fitch-RS	Paper, Print, Adv	
40	P & O Dtd (as)	Transport	
41	Land Sec (as)	Property	
42	Tredgill H (as)	Industrial S-Z	
43	Warrand Control (as)	Oil, Gas	
44	Orion Court	Leisure	
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Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in tomorrow's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

The £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was won yesterday by Mrs Doreen Goss, of Chigwell, Essex.

BRITISH FUNDS

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
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SHORTS (Under Five Years)				
No.	Company	Price	Change	%
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6
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FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS				
No.	Company	Price	Change	%
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OVER FIFTEEN YEARS				
No.	Company	Price	Change	%
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2
3
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UNDATED				
No.	Company	Price	Change	%
1
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3
4
5

INDEX-LINKED				
No.	Company	Price	Change	%
1
2
3
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5

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
1
2
3
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7
8
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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Water shares weak

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began December 10. Dealings end December 28. Contango day December 31. Settlement day January 7.
Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price-earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (as) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 23)

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
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BREWERIES

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
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BUILDING, ROADS

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
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No.	Company	Price	Change	%
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ELECTRICITY

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
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FINANCE, LAND

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
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FINANCIAL TRUSTS

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
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FOODS

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
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CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
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DRAPERY, STORES

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
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HOTELS, CATERERS

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
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INDUSTRIALS A-D

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
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ELECTRICALS

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
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Portfolio PLATINUM

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No.	Company	Price	Change	%
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OVERSEAS TRADERS

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
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PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
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PROPERTY

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
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SHOES, LEATHER

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
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TEXTILES

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
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MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

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PRECIOUS
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مَكَّنَا مِنَ الْأَصْلِ

do not wear any reflective clothing at night. The association warns drivers they must do more to improve vision and visibility, particularly at this time of year.

K.E.

First Front
THE HEART OF LONDON
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2000 LIST

11-11-68

Joint tilt at 2000 Games urged on London

By JOHN GOODBODY

AN INDEPENDENT study yesterday urged the rival groups interested in staging the 2000 Olympic Games in London to combine to ensure the bid goes forward to the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Coopers and Lybrand Deloitte, a leading firm of accountants, emphasised that any successful bid should centre on a new complex of sports facilities and an Olympic village close to an existing or approved transport infrastructure.

The report comes only six days before the British Olympic Association (BOA) decides whether to endorse a bid for the Games. Manchester and pos-

sibly Birmingham, which failed to get the 1996 and 1992 Games respectively, are also expected to bid for the 2000 Olympics.

Four groups, one of which, London 2000, is led by Sebastian Coe, are looking at the possibility of holding the Games. Coopers and Lybrand Deloitte stated that it was only asked by the London Council for Sport and Recreation, a body which represents local authorities and sports bodies in the capital, to set up a preliminary feasibility study but it was not interested in putting in a bid itself.

Ed Straw, a spokesman for the company, said: "We are just concerned with getting everyone together to support a joint effort." A proper feasibility

study would now look at how much government financing would be needed.

"The German government would clearly back Berlin, one of London's probable rivals for the year 2000, to the hilt," he said. "It is important that London has a serious and professional bid and not a glorious failure."

Straw pointed out that much of the money from the government and also local authorities and the private sector for infrastructure and housing will already have been projected, if not approved. "The important thing is that this money is spent at the right time, before the Games are held here and that the infrastructure and transport connected with the Olympics get priority."

However, he did warn: "What the government must understand is that every recent Olympic Games, with the possible exception of Los Angeles, has had major government support." He pointed out that Atlanta, which will host the 1996 Games, will get US\$414 million for facilities from the Georgia State government.

The paper from Coopers and Lybrand Deloitte stated that the building costs for an Olympic and media village, consisting of 30,000 beds, would cost about £450 million. In 1988-9 London's local authorities spent a total of only £128 million on new housing.

"The government has to make up its mind. An Olympic Games

is one of the best possible investments of its kind. It is a catalyst for many other things. It also raises morale."

The company looked at several possible sites for the main venues, including Docklands and the East Thames corridor, alongside the M11 and also West London near Heathrow.

Generally, the report felt that London had the strength of being an attractive venue for visitors, recognised international media expertise, a substantial catchment area for spectators, excellent air transport, superb cultural attractions and the British traditions.

Its weaknesses were seen as poor local infrastructure and the lack of existing venues for

competition and training. The report pointed out that whereas Atlanta had nearly 60 per cent of its facilities built by the time that the IOC voted last September on the venue for the 1996 Games, Manchester had only a green field completed and only a green field to show for the main Games site.

The report stated that the important ingredient in credibility was having facilities that were built or being built provided that they were of good quality.

If the BOA decides next week that Britain should bid again for the Games it will vote which city to nominate in March. The IOC will decide the venue for the 2000 Games at its session in September, 1993.

Dick Palmer, the secretary of

the BOA, is drawing up a discussion paper to be considered at its meeting on Wednesday. This will look at the process the association will go through to receive the bid, how it will evaluate them and the standards required.

There are several members of the BOA who believe that it is pointless bidding again for the Games unless there is a genuine chance of success.

In September, Manchester only secured five votes in the second round, having polled 11 in the first. Birmingham only got eight votes in the second round when it failed to get the 1992 Games which will take place in Barcelona.

SKIING

Racers take the hump at flattening of 'camels'

From BRIAN JAMES IN VAL GARDENA, ITALY

A VALLEY justly infamous for its grotesque knobbly woodcarving has now appalled some of the world's best skiers by having had its bumps sculpted out. The sport is already reckoned to have become too smooth.

Men with ice axes and shovels have been at the "camels", the trio of humps that are the most famous characteristic of the Saslong piste where the second downhill of this World Cup season will be run today. Other men, with snow made by machines, have been smoothing off a section in the centre of the course where technical excellence has always been demanded.

According to Italy's Kristian Ghedina, one of the favourites: "The course is so much easier. They have taken too much from the camels." Leonard Stock, the Austrian who won the season's first downhill, said: "I skied the bumps badly. But that was my fault, not the piste, which is very changed."

The lip of the middle hump of the "camels" has been extended six metres, making it less likely that the fastest men will take off, fly 40 metres and thump down on the peak of the last hill. Five men did this last year, and fell. One has not skied since, and Peter Mueller, of Switzerland, is only slowly regaining his confidence.

The case for a hard look at the preparation is therefore easily made. But as Karl Schranz, world champion and skier supreme in the 1960s, insisted: "We don't want accidents. But this is a downhill not a cross country. It is much too easy, but then so has become the whole sport. It is the trainers who make the protests, call for

changes. Not the skiers. They can manage the hardest courses. Anyway the best ones can."

Those of us who skied the course in the hour before final training, if in times more appropriately monitored by a calendar than a clock, will know this 3,440-metre serpent of ice will only be skied in something like 120 seconds by the bravest.

Peter Wirnsberger was more forgiving than most about the Val Gardena track. "I think it is different. Not easier. It still has many of the parts of a classic course."

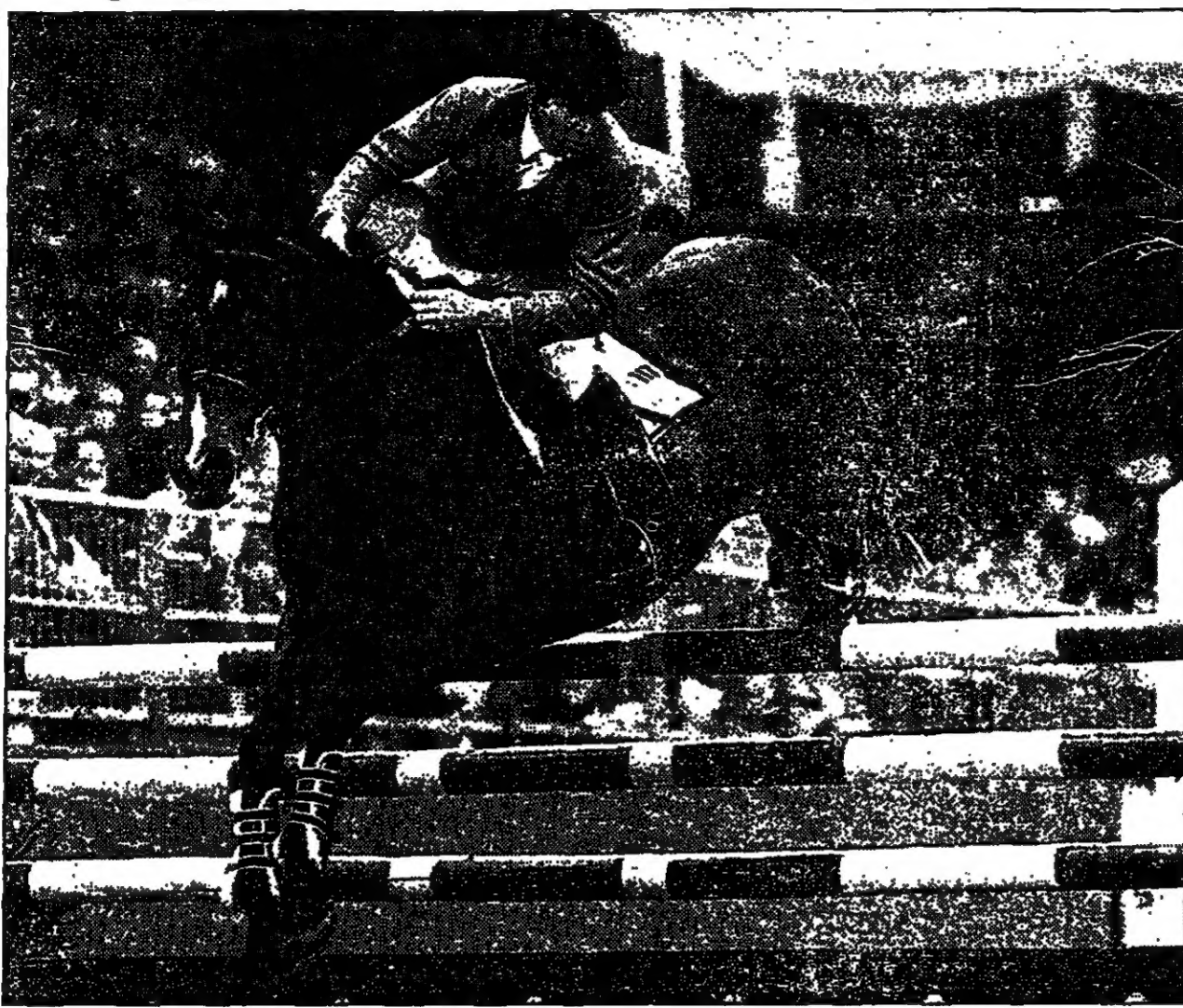
Forecasting is tricky. The Swiss, Franz Heinzer, second last year and fastest in first-day practice, virtually sialomed the last sprint to the finish, perhaps not wanting to show all he has. So the two fastest times are held by Heidegger and Boyd, who have each twice won this race. Two inevitable Norwegians, Skaddal and Arnesen, and two of the young Americans, Moe and Kitt, lurk close.

Nobody carries a greater load than young Ghedina, whom the Italians call "La Slavina" (the avalanche) when they love him - that is, when he wins. Or "Ghedina? Unrecognisable" as one headline dismissively screamed when, as last week, he loses.

LEADING PRACTICE TIMES: 1. H Heidegger (Austria), 2.56sec; 2. H Boyd (Canada), 2.58.12; 3. A Skaddal (Norway), 2.58.44; 4. T Moe (USA), 2.58.44; 5. Moe (Switzerland), 2.58.45; 6. K Ghedina (Italy), 2.58.46; 7. L Stock (Austria), 2.58.48; 8. P Mueller (Switzerland), 2.58.50; 9. A Kitt (USA), 2.58.70; 10. P Wirnsberger (Austria), 2.58.80.

Driving snow forced the abandonment of the third and final practice day for the women's World Cup downhill in Miringen-Haasliberg, Switzerland, today (Reuters reports).

Olympia's show under way in flying fashion



Cracking clearance: Nick Skelton, on Alan Paul Grand Slam, in the Christmas Cracker Stakes yesterday

Bowen and Delsey show class

By JENNY MACARTHUR

THE Lancashire born rider, David Bowen, who is in dispute with the International Equestrian Federation (FEI) over a positive drug test on his horse, Delsey, last summer, underlined the nine-year-old gelding's fitness at Olympia yesterday with a convincing win in the Everest Christmas Stocking Stakes.

Bowen, aged 42, received £900 for his efforts but revealed afterwards that he is still smarting from the £300 fine imposed on him by the FEI last month after Delsey

was found positive for the drug. Bowen has no idea how the drug came to be in Delsey. There's no horse in the yard with nautical so there would be no reason to have had the drug. If the FEI is going to get

disqualified I've had to pay nearly £2,000 - but my horse has never been given the drug - I didn't even know what it was for when they rang to tell me about the fine."

David Broome's horse, Lamegan, was also tested positive for the drug - which is used to relieve the pain of navicular disease in the foot - at the Dublin Horse Show in July. But in his case, it was traced back to a contaminated electrolyte and Broome, although still disqualified from all events at Dublin, was exonerated from responsibility.

Bowen has no idea how the drug came to be in Delsey. There's no horse in the yard with nautical so there would be no reason to have had the drug. If the FEI is going to get

this tough there should definitely be a 24-hour guard on horses at all FEI shows. I shall definitely appeal - though that could add another £500 to my expenses."

More immediate problems were confronting Raymond Brooks-Ward, the director of Olympia, at the show yesterday. The horses of seven foreign riders, including all the

French and Swiss, were delayed in Calais because of the rough weather in the Channel and missed the opening day.

Roger-Yves Bost, the leader of the European League of the World Cup after his win in Bordeaux last week, was believed yesterday to have given up trying to cross and gone home.

The rest hoped to catch the evening ferry last night. Ironically, the organisers had last month bemoaned the number of foreign riders compared with British ones that the show was forced to take under FEI rules.

RESULTS: Everest Christmas Stocking Stakes: 1. Delsey (D Bowen), 32.75sec; 2. Brook Street Clover (R Smith), 32.82; 3. Penny (J Lammont), 33.08; 4. The Modern Atlantic (Graham Crackley), 33.12; 5. Zazzou (P Heffer), 44.25sec; 6. Alan Paul Grand Slam (N Skelton), 45.01; 7. Top Gun (L Sile), 45.01; 8. Top Gun (L Sile), 45.27.

Illustrious four of United States go for Olympic gold

DAVID MILLER

CHIEF SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

Lillehammer, Norway

THE United States has not won an Olympic medal in the four-man bobsleigh event since 1956, when it took the bronze. A group of illustrious novices is going for gold in 1992 at Albertville ... and onwards, they hope, to Lillehammer two years later.

Edwin Moses, double Olympic hurdles gold medal winner, Willie Gault, who plays wide receiver for Los Angeles Raiders, and Herschel Walker, the running back for Minnesota Vikings, have united to give a bobsleigh the fastest 40-metre take-off speed in history. After that, it's up to the driver, Brian Shimer, the only man in the quartet who knows the way down.

The only competitor in Olympic history to have won gold medals in both winter and summer Games was Edward Egan, of the United States. He won the light heavyweight boxing title at Antwerp in 1920 and was then a member of the four-man bobsleigh team in 1932. The only other double medal winner was Jacob Thams of Norway, ski-jump champion in 1924 and a silver medal winner in yachting four years later.

Moses hopes to broaden his own place in Olympic history. "I fell in love with the bob run during the Olympic winter Games in Calgary two years ago," he explained, during his visit here as a member of the International Olympic Committee's athletes commission. Photographers were quick to get Prince Albert of Monaco, a bobsleigh driver and another member of the commission, out in the snow together.

Moses looks as lean and athletic as he did during the period in which he was unbeaten at 400 metres hurdles, from his rapid emergence to win the gold medal in Montreal in 1976 to regaining it in Los Angeles eight years later; deprived by the boycott by the United States of the Moscow Games of the chance of a third gold in beryllium.

"My advantage is that I'm a strong runner, but not too heavy," Moses said. "Many bobsleigh teams concentrate

more on bulk." In trials in September at Lake Placid, the US Olympic centre on the east coast, the new formation set a record time of 5.03sec on the test track starting rails. Suddenly, Tony Carino, the national bobsleigh coach, was talking about gold medals.

Previously, the multi-sport sprinters had taken part in aptitude testing at Lake Placid in July, together with many other candidates. It was the famous three who scored the highest marks at 30, 60 and 100 metre sprints, a vertical jump, a 16-pound shot throw and a five-consecutive hop.

With a 900 possible perfect score, Gault, who ran 10.24sec for 100 metres, took first place with 802 points, followed by Walker and Moses jointly on 761. Walker won the shot and hop, Moses the vertical jump.

Gault had been a member of the US bobsleigh team in 1988, but did not race. The US finished fourth by only hundredths of a second. Willie Davenport, the 1968 Olympic hurdles gold medal winner, was on the bobsleigh team in 1980. It was Gault who talked Moses and Walker into trying their hand at this sport in which you can become an expert with the right physique, in only half an hour.

In spite of doubts expressed about the availability of professional footballers during the winter season, Gault has assured the US selectors that he and his Minnesota colleague will make whatever commitment is necessary. "Whatever the rules are, we'll meet them," Gault has said.

Moses went to inspect the Huskogen bobsleigh course here, but was of course unable to test it. He revealed that he is in such good physical condition that he is contemplating entering the US trials for a place in the 400 metres hurdles at Barcelona in the summer Games of 1992. "If I'm in good shape, why not?" he said.

Referees happy with behaviour in Welsh rugby union despite the surge of league sendings-off

Return to final for Burke

By DAVID HANDS

FOUR members of the Lancashire XV defeated in last season's county colts final return to Twickenham to meet Somerset in the final of this season's championship on Saturday. They include the captain, Graham Burke, the Littleborough scrum half who played stand-off half in the 34-3 defeat by Yorkshire.

Lancashire dismissed Yorkshire 19-3 in the group games and have conceded only 19 points in seven games - including a 22-3 semi-final defeat of Cornwall - on their way to the final.

Somerset's 20-4 victory over Hertfordshire at the same stage included five tries and, in their third final in four years, they include four players from Bath, among them Andrew Webber, the captain and stand-off.

Bath recently encountered the unbeaten Wasps colts XV, going down 54-0 on their own ground. Both sides were weakened by county calls but Wasps scored ten tries, three of them to Paul Volley, the flanker.

They have conceded only one try throughout the season. However they face a substantial challenge next month when they visit Agen, whose only defeat last season was at their hands.

LANCASHIRE: 1. Stokely (Collier Vale); 2. Bishop (Orms); 3. Trew (Wigan); 4. Skelton (West Park); 5. Handley (De La Salle); 6. Burke (Littleborough); 7. Leckie (Orms); 8. Turner-Gifford (Liverpool St Helens); 9. Turner (Warrington); 10. Russell (Littleborough); 11. Laker (Preston Green); 12. Jackson (Orms); 13. Castle (Warrington); 14. Jephson (Littleborough). SOMERSET: 1. Lloyd (Preston); 2. Preece (Taunton); 3. Redrup (Bristol); 4. Ramsey (Dorchester School); 5. White (Bristol); 6. Roberts (Taunton); 7. Hussy (Clevedon); 8. Ball (Exeter and Albion); 9. Scoble (Preston Park College); 10. Collins (Taunton); 11. Newman (Taunton); 12. Jones (Bath).

Quality tag put on Australian team

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE strongest schools side to leave Australia for the northern hemisphere begins a 13-match tour against the Netherlands in Leiden tomorrow. Given that four previous tours, and 56 matches, the Australian schoolboys have lost just once - to England in 1974 - that is a considerable claim for Christopher Hawkins, their coach.

Hawkins admitted that the 1977 party, which included the Ellis brothers and Wally Lewis, may have had more talented individuals, but he said at Twickenham yesterday, "this is the strongest overall team." It includes 20 of the match party of 21 which beat New Zealand schools 9-7 in September.

The Australians tend to introduce their most talented youngsters to the senior national side without delay; thus of the last tour party, in 1986, Scott Gourlay, Sam Scott-Young, Richard Tombs, and Ricky Stuart all toured with the Wallabies within two years and Stuart was a key half back in the Australian rugby league team which beat Great Britain 2-1.

Of the three internationals - because of a disagreement over the age limits, the Australians

will play a Scottish Youth XV - Hawkins regards Ireland as the greatest challenge. The Australian coach bases his judgment on the party which toured in 1987. "They had the best schoolboy forward pack I have seen for a long time," he said.

INTERNATIONALS: December: 12 v Netherlands (Leiden); 13 v West Wales (Leiden); 22 v East Wales (Newbridge); 29 v Wales (Cardiff Arms Park); 30 v Llanelli (Llanelli); 31 v Scotland (Glasgow); 1 v North and Midlands (Leicester); 12 v South West and London (Bristol); 20 v Yorkshire (Leeds); 22 v England (Twickenham).

England Students face a busy 18 months in the build-up to their World Cup in Italy in the summer of 1992. A squad of 48 is required for training at Bisham Abbey from January 4 to 6 to prepare for internationals against Wales, Scotland and France, before touring Canada in July and August.

Oxford who won the university match on Tuesday, provide two members, de Glanville and Taylor, while Cambridge offer 11.

Six players - Hunter, Underwood, de Glanville, Hopkey, and Moon in the backs, Rodder in the forwards - have already represented England at B international level.

Moseley joins Newport

KEVIN Moseley, the lock capped five times by Wales, who joined Newport, Moseley, who received a seven-month suspension after being sent off in January, announced earlier this month his intention of leaving Pontypool, where he was the club captain.

He leaves a premier division club for one in the first division of the Heineken League, though

to have been unhappy with the captaincy at Pontypool, although it was another valley club, Newbridge, which was wistful to win his services.

Bob Kimmins, the Orrell and Newport lock, has withdrawn from the Midlands at Headingley in the divisional championship tomorrow. He has yet to recover from a back injury and his place

Club coaches admit that the character of Welsh rugby is undergoing a change. Life nowadays is lived permanently on a knife edge, emotions, whether fulfilled or frustrated, are necessarily sharper.

In these circumstances there has necessarily to be better discipline. Which brings us to

statistics which show that 21 players have been sent off in nine Saturdays, half the fixtures in the Welsh Heineken League, should concentrate anyone's attention. This figure is clearly unacceptable. But we need to take care.

On the surface, this suggests that violence is rampant in the inaugural year of Wales's structured competition. For the first time, clubs are playing for divisional points. Honour is more clearly at stake and, weekly, positions are to be contested. Promotion is to be aimed for, relegation avoided; excuses to be made, form justified. There is a tension in the air.

The league had the least auspicious of beginnings. The competition was hardly four minutes old when Les Peard, the international referee, sent off Denzil Eardland, of Pontypool, in the game against Llanelli. The back row forward was later joined by his colleague, Jim Scarlen.

GERALD DAVIES

statistics can properly reflect. The tone of the matches, almost without exception in my experience this season, has considerably changed.

If there was an undercurrent of ill-feeling in that first match at Stradey Park this has not been the pattern elsewhere. There were times in past "friendlies" when the atmosphere of skulduggery was uncomfortably ominous, almost tangible, from the very start of the game.

No league game as yet in my experience has generated that kind of hostility. They have been almost free of tuggery. If the standard of rugby may not be what one would wish, there cannot be very many complaints about the general standard of behaviour.

"Of course, we are unhappy with these statistics," Ken Rowlands, the WRU referee development officer, said. "We'd prefer not to have any send-offs at all, naturally. But I have meetings regularly with referees and they confirm that the standard of discipline is vastly improved."

"They no longer have to do what some prolonged punch-ups that used to occur. The game is cleaner."

Derek Bevan, the Welsh international referee, agrees. "The three pairs of eyes have done away with so many of the off-the-ball incidents," he said, referring to the two touch-

Leeds GS go out on try rule

By MICHAEL STUBENSON

THE inaugural Daily Mail cup for under-18 teams has seen some real dramas, with no game more exciting than Leeds Grammar School's visit to RGS Newcastle in the north-east semi-final. The sides drew 21-21 but RGS went through, having scored four tries to three and won the toss.

In the south-west group, RGS High Wycombe kept the State sector's flag flying with victory against Wellington College (14-8) and will now meet Bishop Wordsworth's, who defeated Exeter College by 17-9 in their semi-final. Elsewhere safely negotiated their semi-final in the Midlands group with victory over King Edward's, Aston by 14-0.

Seven teams, despite some good wins, ended a mixed season with the disappointment of defeat by Durham by the convincing margin of 26-0. Rosalind were expected to defeat King Edward VII, Lytham (19-16), but have lost only to Seabridge and St Edward's Liverpool.

OECS Wakefield have had good wins to report against Hymer's, Ashville, King's Biscuits, Nottingham HS and Leeds GS but lost narrowly to Bradford GS by 21-17, through two late penalties, having trailed 12-0 then led 17-12.

Warral GS, enjoying superb form, won their tenth successive game when they defeated King's Maclefield (12-13). They followed with 28-3 victory against Liverpool College.

Merchant Taylors', Crosby, deprived Birkenhead of their unbeaten record (16-0) and have not lost since their opening fixture, Denstone, having lost four of their first five matches, fourth back creditably with 10-

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Seeds go tumbling in tennis's Grand Slam Cup as an army of underdogs snap at their heels

Wheaton aims to make Lendl pay

FROM ANDREW LONIGORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, MUNICH

WITH four of the eight seeds already departed and two more bound to fall in the quarter-finals, the Grand Slam Cup is at least following the trend of democracy established in the rest of a year which produced four different grand slam champions.

Michael Chang stayed on course to be the fifth, with a straight-sets victory over Henri Leconte in the first of the quarter-finals yesterday. Chang has prepared longer than anyone for this event and, having beaten Edberg in the first round, he looks a coherent resistance from the Frenchman. Chang won 7-6, 6-3 in an hour and 35 minutes.

One of those, David Wheaton, from the Lake Wobegon country of Minnesota, faces the daunting prospect of almost doubling his career prize-money in three days if he can catch Lendl off duty in the Olympiastadion tonight and reach the semi-finals.

Victory would ensure the American a cheque for \$450,000, (£230,000) which would probably break the bank in his home town of Lake Minnetonka. But the very thought of that kind of

money, just for winning a few tennis matches, can make the lower-paid employees on the tennis circuit go weak at the knees.

As Wheaton admitted, dollar signs did cloud his vision when it came to winning his first-round match against Yannick Noah. "At the break-point I thought about the \$300,000 and I really started shaking," he said. Brad Gilbert, who plays his Davis Cup colleague, Aaron Krickstein, in the quarter-finals tonight, also took fright at the prospect of cashing in his insurance policy early.

"I was all right until Pete Sampras said to me before the match: 'You know if you win this match, you can take care of your kid for life,'" Gilbert took a set to get the shakes out of his system before beating Jonas Svensson. "I still want to win whether I play for \$100,000 or \$10," he added.

Wheaton is so honest, wholesome and clean-cut he could have come straight off the streets of Garrison Keillor's make-believe town of Lake Wobegon. He has also been smart enough to prepare hard for this event, and could give

him a run for his money. Lendl, who divides tournaments into the grand slams and the rest and regards the GSC as one of the latter, a run for his money, so to speak.

Lendl, of course, has no worries about spare cash or school fees, having earned \$17m in his 12-year career. "I am getting sick talking about money. Once you realise you have earned enough for yourself and your family for life, you just ignore it," he said. Fed up with talking about the stuff, not earning it, notice. As usual, Lendl has hit the nail firmly on the head with his comments about the GSC.

It is, he thinks, an attempt by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) to establish a framework for a tour to rival the ATP should things get nasty over the Agassi affair or anything else.

"Any competition is always good for all. If they do it smartly, they could have two circuits with one joint ranking, like golf. It would be nice to win here, though the title wouldn't mean much now apart from the money. But in 20 or 30 years it could mean a lot," he said, though he refused to speculate on what he might be doing at the time.

Presumably, Compaq, the title sponsor of the Grand Slam Cup, have the technology to set up a ranking system of their own in opposition to IBM, who sponsor the ATP tour.

If you could only qualify for the grand slams by playing in ITF-backed tournaments with ITF points, for sake of argument, Lendl's dream of two tours could yet come true. But it might cost the game dear.

Looking ahead: Lendl moves easily past Bergstrom

RON PRESTON, the outgoing president of the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA), admitted yesterday there has been no real progress by Britain's leading players in the world game over the past year.

Nor are there any signs of any top 10 players of the future emerging from the junior ranks, he told the LTA's annual meeting at Queen's Club, London.

Preston, who has been in office three years, said: "It is the British performance in international tennis by which we are judged, not only by the press but also through them, the British public."

"Last year I said that the LTA had made a major investment in coaches and coaching but that the British public would have to be patient before we saw any benefits of that investment. Well, patience is something we will have to continue to use."

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Looking ahead: Lendl moves easily past Bergstrom

Mason pours scorn on contest that could prove risky

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

IT WOULD be a pity if the bout everyone wants to see, between Gary Mason, the British champion, and Lennox Lewis, the European title holder, did not take place. Not because Lewis "is going to bottle it," as Mason and his manager, Mickey Duff, said, after the British champion had stopped James Pritchard, of the United States, in the ninth round at the Albert Hall on Wednesday night, but because of the serious financial problems of the Levitt Group, the money behind Lewis.

Neither Lewis nor his manager, Frank Maloney, was available for comment yesterday. Lewis is in Canada. But a member of Lewis's camp said: "We don't know from one hour to the next what's going to happen. But all will be revealed by Frank at a press conference tomorrow."

Duff's company, National Promotions, in the meantime won the purse bid for the contest, but Duff still believes that Lewis will find some excuse to avoid Mason.

"If I were his manager I would think he wasn't ready yet to face Gary Mason," Duff said. "To put it mildly it would be a big risk. But if he wants to, fine. Mason is the best heavyweight Britain has produced in the 40 years I've been in boxing."

Mason was of the same opinion. "I think his bottle has gone," he said. "He's not ready to fight someone like me, especially after seeing me come back from America in this shape and seeing this performance. But all I know is that my next fight will be for the European title — Lennox Lewis or not. I hope he won't be impressed with me and will go through with the fight."

However much Duff and Mason might belittle Lewis, the bout remains an unnecessarily risky one for Mason, especially as Don King, the American promoter, is talking about a multi-million dollar match with Tyson in June in London.

It is surprising to find so cautious a group as Duff, Terry Lawless and Jarvis Astaire taking a contest that could upset a chance to make millions. Do they really have such complete faith in their own propaganda? Or have the master hype artists hyped themselves into a match they could have done without?

Lennox Lewis is young and resilient enough to come back if he loses. Mason is losing all credibility if he is humbled by the man he has been rubbishing. Lewis, who won the Olympic gold medal in Seoul, is a young, athletic, strong and bigger than Mason. Lewis has not reached his full potential, but being naturally gifted, he could pull out something on the night to embarrass his arch-rival.

"I can't wait to meet Mason," he said after jabbing Jean Maurice Chaneil, the tough European champion from France, into submission last night.

Certainly Pritchard, 2st 6lb lighter than the 16st 12lb Mason and a good few inches shorter, caught the Englishman too often for comfort with the jab. While weighing in under 17st seemed to have helped Mason's stamina, his performance on the whole reminded me of school dinners, good and wholesome.

He was too deliberate and slow shaping into the punches and often stood back to see what effect a big punch had on Pritchard instead of giving him another one. Worst of all, Mason's punches lacked explosive power.

Kirkland Laing is to defend his British welterweight title against Del Bryan at the Albert Hall on January 16.

John Martin, who reported that his autopilot systems had all failed earlier in the week, has won back his 370-mile lead over two French rivals, Alain Gautier and Christophe Auguin who are chasing for second place, and Josh Hall continues to hold second place in class 4 despite his terrifying capsize on Wednesday. Even Nandor and Hal Roth, the two solo yachtsmen forced by damage to turn back for South Africa last week are now within a day of making port safety.

Last night, the only question mark remained over the plight of Yukoh Tada, from Japan. On Wednesday, a radio conversation he was having with a radio operator in Cape Town was broken in mid-sentence and yesterday his 50ft yacht covered a mere 66 miles in 22 hours, suggesting the Tokyo lead driver may have run into the rocks.

With less than 1,400 miles to the Sydney finish on the second stage of the race from Cape Town, Martin has now begun to edge northwards, heading for the notorious Bass Strait where Gipsy Moth V was wrecked in the first BOC Challenge.

LEADING POSITIONS (at 15:00 GMT yesterday, with miles to Sydney): Class 1, 1. John Martin (UK), 1,111; 2. Alain Gautier (France), 1,047; 3. Christophe Auguin (France), 1,047; 4. Josh Hall (UK), 1,047; 5. Nandor (UK), 1,047; 6. Hal Roth (UK), 1,047; 7. Yukoh Tada (Japan), 66; 8. Del Bryan (UK), 66; 9. Del Bryan (UK), 66; 10. Del Bryan (UK), 66.

GENERAL COMMENTS (A. Gautier, 1,700; B. Auguin, 1,700; C. Hall, 1,700; D. Roth, 1,700; E. Tada, 1,700; F. Martin, 1,700; G. Martin, 1,700; H. Martin, 1,700; I. Martin, 1,700; J. Martin, 1,700; K. Martin, 1,700; L. Martin, 1,700; M. Martin, 1,700; N. Martin, 1,700; O. Martin, 1,700; P. Martin, 1,700; Q. Martin, 1,700; R. Martin, 1,700; S. Martin, 1,700; T. Martin, 1,700; U. Martin, 1,700; V. Martin, 1,700; W. Martin, 1,700; X. Martin, 1,700; Y. Martin, 1,700; Z. Martin, 1,700; AA. Martin, 1,700; AB. Martin, 1,700; AC. Martin, 1,700; AD. Martin, 1,700; AE. Martin, 1,700; AF. Martin, 1,700; AG. Martin, 1,700; AH. Martin, 1,700; AI. Martin, 1,700; AJ. Martin, 1,700; AK. Martin, 1,700; AL. Martin, 1,700; AM. Martin, 1,700; AN. Martin, 1,700; AO. Martin, 1,700; AP. Martin, 1,700; AQ. Martin, 1,700; AR. Martin, 1,700; AS. Martin, 1,700; AT. Martin, 1,700; AU. Martin, 1,700; AV. Martin, 1,700; AW. Martin, 1,700; AX. Martin, 1,700; AY. Martin, 1,700; AZ. Martin, 1,700; BA. Martin, 1,700; BB. 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● RUGBY UNION 32
● TENNIS 33

SPORT

Kelly is unlikely to shift stumbling block

By STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

GRAHAM Kelly, the chief executive of the Football Association, yesterday produced a document designed to alter the strategic planning of the game's authorities. His proposals are to be discussed by the FA Council on January 14 but, even if they are accepted, they promise to be rejected by the League.

As in the blueprint published by the League two months ago, Kelly insists that the administration can be streamlined only by forming an executive board. Although both bodies share the view that there should be 12 members, they disagree on the number of respective representatives.

The League is adamant that if the partnership is to be seen to be

genuine, each party must have six. Kelly concedes that, although the Council has yet officially to talk about the equation, "concern has been expressed about the 50-50 split". The FA is putting forward a different set of figures.

It is willing to have no more than four representatives from the League and defends the apparent imbalance by pointing out that it has a far greater overall responsibility within the game. On such a comparatively trivial matter rests the future implementation of both sets of ideas.

Unless agreement can be reached, the two bodies are likely to continue to follow separate paths. The opportunity to benefit from the interest provoked by England's success in the World

Cup (the FA estimate that the annual income of £25 million could be more than doubled) will have been lost.

Kelly said that the League's proposals "presented a picture of disharmony, which is not the case". As if to disprove his opinion, which cannot be shared by many either inside or outside of the game, another example of the public discord was revealed as he was speaking during a lunch at a London hotel.

The FA had suggested that £3.5 million of the money provided by the television companies should be used to improve the nine stadiums where the 1998 World Cup finals would be staged. David Dent, the secretary, announced that the League opposes the plan and suggests instead that "new revenue should be raised".

Neither the FA nor the League intend to ask other interested parties, such as the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA), the managers, the referees and the supporters, to be involved in the scheme. Yet unless they do so, they can scarcely refute allegations that they are not reflecting every view to be held.

Stadiums

The Football Stadium Advisory Design Council, set up by the FA and the League, and the Football Licensing Authority, the government's responsibility, are stumbling around in the dark. The injection of £100 million over five years, provided by the reduction in the betting tax, is welcome but there needs to be a national plan covering the collective investment re-

quired. Otherwise clubs will struggle to keep pace with trends.

Commercial activities

A separate limited company should be set up to exploit hot properties such as the FA Cup and the England crest. Television contracts are to be renewed in a year or two and football must be prepared to take on the intense competition. A Junior England club is to be formed to attract youngsters, who can identify with the national team.

Excellence

Almost all respected coaches say that young talent is being drastically mismanaged. There are too many competitions, the fear factor is prevalent and technique is not being developed. Eleven-a-side games should be played only by those

aged 11 or more. Clubs should sign boys from the local area.

Health

Physiological testing in the human performance department at Lillieshall must be mandatory for all of the leading youngsters. Medical problems should be diagnosed and treated at the earliest opportunity. Fixture lists at youth level should be reduced.

Community

With the League and the PFA, a scheme is being developed to broaden the base. A grant of £3 million over two years has been donated by the Football Trust. In the new year Mini-Soccer, an activity which can be played anywhere, will be launched to encourage youngsters.

Image

Video evidence will not be

used to undermine the authority of referees. In exceptional circumstances steps will be taken to maintain discipline and to prevent the police taking action. Referees need to be recruited, although there are 1,500 more than last season.

Laws

Amendments must be researched before being put before the international board. It is anomalous that deliberate handling of the ball results in a yellow card and physical foul play warrants a red card. It is being proposed that anyone adjudged to have committed an offence which is "an affront to the game" will be sent off. It is also being proposed that a player can be ruled offside only if he is "seeking" to interfere with play.

England start on road back

From ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
SYDNEY

A VICTORY which looked alternately improbable, problematic and elementary, soothed the nerves of England's cricketers here last night and restored their uneasy ascendancy over New Zealand.

Played on a sub-standard pitch, inclined to keep low, and featuring teams with neurotic injury problems, this World Series Cup match was always likely to stretch even the hyperbole of the Channel Nine commentary team.

It was not the greatest one-day game. It was influenced by a battling innings from Allan Lamb and by the welcome curiosity of two spinners bowling in tandem. Eventually, it was decided by a leg-before decision which was more than merely questionable.

"Any win is a good win," the relieved captain, Graham Gooch, said. "There are obviously lots of areas of our cricket still to improve and the biggest of these is the batting, which is not up to standard. But we have at least made a start on the road back."

Gooch's decision to play seemed, ultimately, straightforward. Having exposed his recuperating hand without reaction in Bowral, and seen to his horror just how far his team had declined, he had little option.

The role of avenging hero did not, however, sit easily on the shoulders of a man struggling to reacquire himself with his midsummer form.

Put in to bat, Gooch rightly decided that he should open as usual. As he went about his preparations, on the dressing-room balcony, the television cameras followed him as if they were backstage with an

WORLD SERIES CUP

	P	W	L	T	Pts	R/Rate
Australia	4	4	0	0	8	5.00
England	4	2	2	0	4	4.00
New Zealand	4	2	2	0	4	4.00

REMAINING QUALIFYING MATCHES:
Tasmania: England v New Zealand (Sydney) Dec 16; Australia v New Zealand (Sydney) Dec 18; Australia v England (Melbourne) Dec 19; Australia v England (Melbourne) Dec 20; England v New Zealand (Sydney) Dec 21; England v New Zealand (Sydney) Dec 22.

ageing rock star before his comeback concert. The analogy goes on, for Gooch had serious trouble remembering his famous lines.

A pressured innings in an overs match is not the ideal way back for him and it will be next week, and the four-day game against Victoria, before he has a proper chance to restore his touch in time for the Melbourne Test. Here, he scored three in 13 balls before pushing stiffly at one which left him.

When Larkins and Smith were out to unworthy strokes, England were 23 for three and much depended on Lamb. He came out with his face like a beaten boxer's, red and puffy from treatment, 24 hours earlier, to eradicate some cancerous spots on his skin.

In the circumstances, one could forgive him an impetuous first ball smear and some neurotic running early in his stay. It was less easy to pardon him for the middle in which John Morris, setting off reasonably for a third run to mid-wicket, was run out due to Lamb's indecision.

Fortunately, Stewart, who yesterday also took over the wicketkeeping gloves from Russell, is now in his best form of the tour, and a stand of 77 in 17 overs gave the total some body.

From there, the final six wickets fell for 51 runs in ten overs. England not only failed to reach 200 for the fourth time in as many World Series

Cup games, they also failed by 20 balls to occupy their full quota of overs, which is rank bad cricket.

Gooch felt the score of 194 to be inadequate but defensible against this New Zealand side. Already without Jones and Smith, they have now lost Greatbatch, who returns home today for treatment on a knee. Crowe and Wright opened the innings and both teams knew that there was little of substance to follow.

They began as if victory was a mere formality and had put on 56 in 15 overs when Wright was spectacularly caught at slip, by Lamb, off Lewis. It became a case of England against Crowe.

This contest was subtly won and lost. Tuffnell deserves credit for another nerveless spell of attacking left-arm spin, this time supplemented by the nagging of Hemmings. Most important of all was Crowe's inability to dominate the strike. In the middle ten overs of the innings, he faced only 13 balls and just 19 runs were scored.

With 100 needed from the last 16, England could not relax. Inside the last ten, and New Zealand required only 57 when Young was well caught by Morris on the mid-wicket boundary. Crowe's subsequent fall, leg-before to a ball which was arguably too high and undoubtedly missing leg stump, buried further speculation, and Crowe did not conceal his disgust. His depleted team must now beat England in Brisbane tomorrow to retain even a glimmer of interest.

Fighting broke out several times in the crowd of 10,000. The trouble appeared to emanate from a section of English supporters.

Unfair pitches, page 30



Fighting innings: Allan Lamb on his way to a top score for England

SCOREBOARD FROM SYDNEY

New Zealand won toss

ENGLAND

3 6 4 1 13 13

G A Gooch c Young b Ptele

Chasing ball wide of off-stump

W Larkins c Watson b Ptele

Misread drive to mid-off moving left

R A Lamb b Ptele

Glanced off hip to square leg

A J Lamb b Morrison

Ball passed between bat and pad

J E Morris run out

Misunderstanding with mid

J A J Stewart run out

Long throw from deep mid-on

C G Lewis c Smith b Bradburn

Defensive shot flared catch down offside

M P Blackwell b Ptele

Chopped ball on to stumps

E E Hemmings not out

A R C Ptele run out (Hemmings)

Playing across the line

P C R Tuffnell b Ptele

Attacking shot played outside ball

Extras (lb 7, w 10, nb 2)

Total (48.4 overs, 192 min)

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-7 (Larkins 2 no, 2-15 (Smith 2 no, 3-23 (Lamb 2 no, 4-56 (Lamb 2 no, 5-145 (Lamb 2 no, 6-158 (Lamb 2 no, 7-170 (Lamb 2 no, 8-177 (Hemmings 4 no, 9-184 (Hemmings 4 no, 10-194 (Hemmings 4 no, 11-194 (Hemmings 4 no, 12-194 (Hemmings 4 no, 13-194 (Hemmings 4 no, 14-194 (Hemmings 4 no, 15-194 (Hemmings 4 no, 16-194 (Hemmings 4 no, 17-194 (Hemmings 4 no, 18-194 (Hemmings 4 no, 19-194 (Hemmings 4 no, 20-194 (Hemmings 4 no, 21-194 (Hemmings 4 no, 22-194 (Hemmings 4 no, 23-194 (Hemmings 4 no, 24-194 (Hemmings 4 no, 25-194 (Hemmings 4 no, 26-194 (Hemmings 4 no, 27-194 (Hemmings 4 no, 28-194 (Hemmings 4 no, 29-194 (Hemmings 4 no, 30-194 (Hemmings 4 no, 31-194 (Hemmings 4 no, 32-194 (Hemmings 4 no, 33-194 (Hemmings 4 no, 34-194 (Hemmings 4 no, 35-194 (Hemmings 4 no, 36-194 (Hemmings 4 no, 37-194 (Hemmings 4 no, 38-194 (Hemmings 4 no, 39-194 (Hemmings 4 no, 40-194 (Hemmings 4 no, 41-194 (Hemmings 4 no, 42-194 (Hemmings 4 no, 43-194 (Hemmings 4 no, 44-194 (Hemmings 4 no, 45-194 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